

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



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70P WHERE SOLD

£9.3m scheme 'paves way for Innovation Park'

A MULTI-million pound road scheme will not only allow hundreds of homes to be built in Oswestry but also pave the way for the town's new business park to be built, Shropshire Council's deputy leader has said.

The Government has announced Oswestry will be given £9.3 million to improve the Mile End and Whittington Road roundabouts on the town's

bypass and has also announced a new roundabout will be built on Shrewsbury Road.

The money comes from a fund aimed at improving infrastructure to allow key housing developments to go ahead. While the work will mean up to 600 homes can be built as part of Oswestry's Southern Urban Extension, Councillor Steve Charmley

says it is also vital to the building of the Gateway Innovation Park at Mile End. The project on land off the A5/A483 is expected to bring much needed new jobs to the town.

Councillor Charmley said: "Housing and new jobs go hand in hand. If you are a company looking to locate your business you need somewhere with a ready workforce. If you are

looking to buy a new house you will want somewhere with employment opportunities.

"The improvement of the Mile End roundabout will allow an entrance into the Innovation Park."

The scheme also includes the building of a pedestrian bridge from the town through the houses into the business park. Councillor Charmley

welcomed the £9.3 million funding, which comes on top of plans to transform Oswestry into a Business Improvement District.

He said: "Things are looking very good for the future of Oswestry with the housing, Innovation Park and the Business Improvement District a possibility."

● Homes - See Page 20

COUNCIL

Probe is dropped into councillor's anti-hunt conduct

AN investigation by the local government ombudsman into a councillor's conduct at an anti-fox hunting demonstration has been dropped.

A demonstration took place at the annual Boxing Day hunt in Welshpool.

Welshpool Town Councillor Heather Chave was reported to the local government ombudsman following a special meeting of Welshpool Town Council.

The meeting of the council cleared Councillor Chave and fellow Councillor Nicola Morris of any wrong doing, however Councillor Chave was referred to the ombudsman because of comments on Facebook.

A spokeswoman for the ombudsman has now confirmed that the matter will not be investigated.

She said: "I can confirm that the ombudsman received a complaint that Councillor Heather Chave of Welshpool Town Council may have breached her authority's code of conduct."

"Following consideration of the complaint, the ombudsman does not consider that there is any evidence that Councillor Chave brought her office or authority into disrepute and therefore the matter will not be investigated."

NOT ALL BEDS IN USE AT BABY UNIT

Report by Sue Austin

THE re-opened ward at Oswestry's maternity unit is not up to full strength with only some of the beds pressed back into use, it has been revealed.

Pressures on the general wards at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford mean that some mattresses have not been returned to the Midwife Led Unit, based at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

The unit reopened last month after being closed for six months because of staffing problems. Despite a recruitment drive, the Oswestry unit has already closed temporarily on four occasions because of staff sickness. And a campaigner fighting to safeguard all services at the unit this week said she fears that obstacles are being put in the path of mums who want to stay in the unit after giving birth.

Liz Grayston says she had been contacted by several mums who have experienced problems returning to the unit after having their babies in either Telford or Wrexham.

She said: "Unfortunately not all mothers-to-be are able to give birth in a Midwife Led Unit, many have to go to a consultant unit. However they have the right to ask to return to Oswestry for recovery. I would urge women to use that right."

"Last week only three of the beds in the six-bedded ward had mattresses on them."

Sara Biffen, interim chief operating officer at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "At times of high escalation there may be a need to utilise all available beds within the system."

Church vicar Harvey happy to be back in county



Vicar Harvey Gibbons has returned to Shropshire after taking over at St Oswald's Parish Church in Oswestry. Photo: Jamie Ricketts.

VICAR Harvey Gibbons has returned to Shropshire - years after he trained in the county for a career in agriculture.

Reverend Gibbons was inducted on Sunday as the vicar of St Oswald's Parish Church in Oswestry.

The town's new vicar said he had already received a very warm welcome.

"There is a real sense of community in Oswestry," he said. Mr Gibbons was a student at Harper Adams College in Newport where

he completed an HND in agriculture and spent 15 years as an agricultural consultant, working in countries including Saudi Arabia and Africa.

He was ordained into the church in 1999.

Mr Gibbons spent five years as a rector in the military town of Warminster in Wiltshire where he had a large army congregation from Battlesbury Barracks during the conflict in Afghanistan. "It was a very difficult time for the soldiers and their families," he said. He

then moved to a parish in Swindon, a town he said had similarities to his new home.

"Swindon is an old railway town like Oswestry and one of my parish churches was built by the railway for the railway families," he said. Mr Gibbons said he was looking forward to getting to know the Oswestry area with his wife Liz. The couple have two grown up children, with their son also ordained and working in York and their daughter living in Cardiff.

ENTERTAINMENT

Fuse ODG joins line-up at festival

A GRAMMY award winner has been named as the latest artist who will take to the stage at this year's Fieldbounce Festival in Oswestry.

UK based Ghanaian singer Fuse ODG will perform at Park Hall on May 5.

The artist enjoyed Grammy success for contributing to pop star Ed Sheeran's album Divide, which won best pop vocal album of the year.

He joins Scouting for Girls, Dappy and Radio One DJ Danny Howard at the top of the bill at the Fieldbounce Festival.

INSIDE

Nurse Penny is a Health Hero



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Energy park given green light by council planners

Report by Jonny Drury

MORE than 2,500 solar panels are to be installed near an historic Oswestry monument after an application was given the green light by planners.

Renewables firm Engena submitted an application to build Cefn Y Maes Community Renewable Energy Park Ltd at Rhydycroesau, near the old Oswestry Racecourse.

The application, which has been running for over two years, was controversial as access to the site was in Shropshire, and the site for building the panels was in Powys.

Shropshire Council planners passed the access to the site, and on Friday, through planners' delegated decisions, the energy park was given the go-ahead by Powys County Council.

Oswestry Rural Parish Councillor Rob Milton said renewable energy is something that is needed and residents concerns were about site access. He had previously said at meetings with residents that 1,300 vehicles would access the site as part of the construction. He said: "The main concern in the beginning was about the access to the site, and residents were concerned about the state of the roads.

"This is not a great travesty that it has been passed, alternative power sources are needed, it is just about where they are put, to make sure they are not a blot on the landscape."

The application is for the installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar array, two energy storage facilities, a new access track, a temporary compound, underground cabling and associated works. Engena has said the energy park would have a lifespan of 30 years and will produce enough electricity for more than 550 homes.

Dozens of people attended meetings held by Oswestry Rural Parish Council with residents last year claiming the plans were ludicrous as they contained a 101 metre high wind turbine.

However the renewables firm removed the turbine from the plans before a decision on the solar panels was made.

New chamber boss looks ahead to future



New Oswestry Chamber of Commerce chairman Mark Derham runs Bridge Coffee, a coffee wholesaler and vending company

A "BIG, little town" has an exciting future ahead of it, according to the new chairman of its chamber of commerce.

Mark Derham says a multi-million pound road improvement scheme and the chance to become a Business Improvement District (BID) will help Oswestry to attract more residents and more businesses.

A meeting of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce was held at the town's Wynnstey Hotel last night (Wednesday). Mr Derham says he would like to hear from members

and non-members on what they would like from the organisation.

An Oswestry resident for the last decade, Mr Derham runs Bridge Coffee, a coffee wholesaler and vending company.

"Oswestry is well placed to grow and develop," he said.

"It is a big, little town with an exciting future.

"We had news of a £9 million government grant for road improvements last week and the ballot on Oswestry becoming

a BID town is underway. The chamber is not part of BID, we purely helped facilitate it in the early stages. I believe it would be good for Oswestry and I sincerely hope it goes ahead." Mr Derham said he would like to see the chamber of commerce attract more members, not only those with town centre businesses but the bigger firms and those on Oswestry's industrial estate and business parks.

More information is available from its website <http://oswestrychamber.org.uk/>

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Dairy giant firm Arla to invest in factory

THE farmer-owned dairy cooperative Arla Foods has announced plans to invest almost half a billion pounds in 2018 – including at its packing facility in Oswestry.

The firm will invest in new, expanded and improved production capacity as well as innovative technology, which will see £72 million be spent in the UK.

More than £30 million will be split across Arla's sites in Oswestry, Melton Mowbray, Llandyrnog, Malpas, Oakthorpe, Stourton, Settle and Trevarrian.

The figure also includes non-site specific investments which will enable Arla continue to drive growth for the farmers which own it and capitalise on increasing demand for dairy.

Arla's carbon net zero site in Aylesbury will see the biggest proportion of UK spend with an investment of £33.6 million as it becomes the UK home to the production of Arla's lactose free dairy products using milk from UK farmers.

The investment in Aylesbury will also provide new facilities for the production of new product packaging using flexible pouches.

The decision to significantly increase the investments of the company was approved at a meeting in London last week by Arla Foods' board of directors, which consists mainly of elected farmer owners.

Singers help out farming charity

A CAROL concert at the Welshpool Livestock Market raised £1,220 for a farm charity.

The fundraiser, organised by RA-BI's Montgomeryshire committee, included performances by singing postman Mark Jones, Llanbadarn Fynydd Girls and Welshpool High School. Money went to The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

Town 'needs improved healthcare provision'

Report by Sue Austin

THERE are fears that Oswestry could lose out on an urgent care centre during the Future Fit healthcare debate on the NHS in Shropshire.

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson, who found himself in Shrewsbury's accident and emergency department two weeks ago with severe back injuries after a riding accident, says talk of having urgent care centres across the county has dropped out of the Future Fit consultation.

Chairing a health meeting in Oswestry, he said the town needed more health care facilities so that people did not have to attend the larger towns of Shrewsbury or Wrexham.

Currently Oswestry has a primary care centre which houses a minor injuries unit with restricted opening hours.

Initial suggestions from Future Fit, which is looking at the provision of hospital services in Shropshire, said one emergency centre would be supported by five urgent care centres, one probably in Oswestry.

But in 2016 David Evans, at the helm of the review, said that instead of a new building there would be bolted-on extras to existing services, including care at home.

During the monthly Oswestry for Health meeting Mr Paterson said: "I don't care what it is called, we need better health services in Oswestry and we need Future Fit to move forward."

Niki McGrath from Future Fit said: "During the consultation, we will be asking for people's views on two options, the CCG's preferred option that the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital becomes an emergency care site and the Princess Royal Hospital becomes a planned care site and option two that the Princess Royal Hospital becomes an emergency care site and the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital becomes a planned care site."

"Under either option, both hospitals would have an urgent care centre that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Ex-MP Opik tells of top class care



Lembit Opik and Owen Paterson were once neighbouring MPs

FORMER politician Lembit Opik says MP Owen Paterson, who broke his back in a riding accident two weeks ago, is in the best possible hospital.

The ex-Montgomeryshire MP found himself in the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital after a horrific paragliding crash in 1998 when he was 33. He spent two weeks in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and four weeks at the centre, having

broken 12 vertebrae and shattered his ribs, sternum and jaw.

Mr Opik says the treatment he had in Shropshire was second to none.

"The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital saved my life and the orthopaedic saved my mobility. It was a back saver," he said.

"The centre at the orthopaedic hospital is the very best in the world. Not everyone that goes in there will walk out, but what is guaranteed is

that they will do the absolute best that they can for you.

"Owen was injured – like I was – doing something he loved, something that involved a degree of risk and I wish him the best recovery he can possibly have. We were MPs in neighbouring counties and worked together on several issues."

Mr Paterson, a former Northern Ireland and Environment minister, is still working from his hospital bed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Election will be held to fill seat

VOTERS in Oswestry will get the chance to elect a new councillor in a by-election.

Town Councillor Julie Edwards stood down from her post recently and the council announced a casual vacancy.

The Green Party in Oswestry then called for an election to fill the gap in the council.

Green Party councillor Nikki Hughes said: "No-one likes extra elections but we think it important that people in the Cambrian area are fully represented on Oswestry Town Council. We 'moved the writ' to make sure the by-election takes place soon."

Arts organisation will host concert

THE Arts Society Mid Wales & Borders has arranged a concert at the Methodist Church, Welshpool, on Saturday.

The Masters of the King's Music is a musical history of the Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal 1500-1700, presented by the Scholars and Gentlemen, directed by Mike Donkin.

It starts at 7pm. Tickets cost £10, and will be available on the door.

Homes plan at old fire station

NEW homes could be built on the site of Chirk's old fire station.

The land, off Colliery Road, has been mainly disused since North Wales Fire Service built a new fire station close by.

Plans submitted to Wrexham Council propose 10 new homes be built on the land, which also includes the former Sarn Chapel.

In the application, the developer says the buildings are in generally poor condition and are currently used for storage in relation to the landowner's business selling pigeon and pet feed.

The application, for a mix of one, two and three-bedroom homes, would, the developer says, revitalise a run-down brownfield site.

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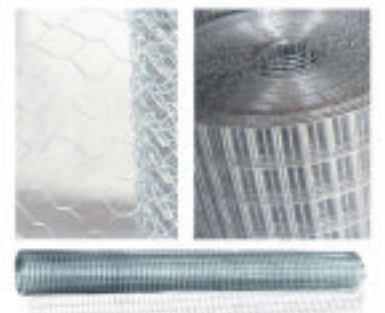
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From left, Laura Wilkins, Lorraine Lloyd and Annie Ford

Laura is walking back to health

LAURA Wilkins has taken her first steps to recovery following serious illness.

And now she has completed the final ones of a challenge she set herself with 100 supporters walking by her side. The determined 37-year old from Welshpool suffered a brain

tumour followed by a stroke, which left her in a wheelchair.

Last September she joined the The National Exercise Referral Scheme at the Flash Leisure Centre in the town and began the journey to get back on her feet again.

From struggling to walk just a

few steps, Laura began to make progress on the treadmill in the gym and was set a challenge by the exercise referral trainer, Lorraine Lloyd, to walk 15 kilometres in January.

Doing just a few minutes at a time, Laura broke through her target and went on to complete 20km

raising money for the Lingens Davies Cancer Unit in Shrewsbury and the Neurological Unit, Stoke.

She recently walked the final 500 metres in the sports hall, joined by 100 other leisure centre users who have been inspired by her determination and supported her challenge.

Merger of county colleges 'will be best for students'

Report by Jonny Drury

A MERGER between two colleges in north and south Shropshire will be best for students, an education chief says.

North Shropshire College, based in Oswestry, is joining forces with Herefordshire and Ludlow College, to create a new body catering for around 11,000 students.

The move is likely to lead to job losses at management level. But North Shropshire College principal Ian Clinton insisted the move was necessary to ensure further education remains available. Mr Clinton has written an open letter to the Chronicle's sister paper the Shropshire Star, promising major investment. He said: "The merger offers real opportunities to focus resources on ensuring that our students and apprentices, together with our community and business partners, get the best deal possible."

"Currently North Shropshire College is embarking on a significant upgrade to its IT facilities and equipment and it is very much the intention that the merger will free-up more resources to allow this to continue to happen in other areas of the college."

"The merger will open up a catchment area for the new college across a large geographical area, along 60-70 miles of the border with Wales and beyond. It will also give the college more of a regional presence and therefore the opportunity to expand our student base, our employer networks and the range of programmes and courses that we offer. Most of our students enjoy their time at North Shropshire College already and we want to make sure that, for those who so wish, there are options to stay at the college to study higher level qualifications, including those at university level."

Man admits bid to rob worker

A 25-year-old man has admitted attempting to rob a member of staff at a corner shop near Welshpool.

Defendant Simon Paul Jones, of Old Goal Road, Montgomery, pleaded guilty to the attempted robbery of Luke Ridgeway at the Spar in the town on January 2.

Jones, who appeared before Mold Crown Court via a live television link from Altcourse Prison, Liverpool, also pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm to PC Andrew Taylor, damaging the £150 wristwatch of Police Community Support Officer Philip Edwards and common assault against the same officer. Jonathan Austin, defending, said information was going to be provided which would explain how he had got himself into such a situation. Judge Rhys Rowlands remanded Jones in custody for sentencing on Monday.

Crews called out to car crash



The car ended up among trees near Mile End, Oswestry. Photo: @SFRS_Oswestry. EMERGENCY services were called to a crash involving one car which ended up in trees near Oswestry.

The crash happened near Mile End on the outskirts of the town.

Two fire crews were sent to the scene at 9.34pm on Thursday last week with ambulance and police teams already on the scene ensuring the driver was made safe.

The crash involved a small hatchback car. Meanwhile, two fire crews were called to a fire in a light fitting at a car garage on Friday afternoon last week.

Crews were called from Ellesmere and Oswestry to the small light fire at Arthurs of Oswestry, on Lower Brook Street.

Crews used a dry powder extinguish the light fitting and it was removed.

In another incident, emergency services were called to a property near Oswestry on Friday after an elderly person had suffered a fall. Ambulance crews called in the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service who sent a crew to an address in Yew Tree Close in Whittington.

The call was made at around 2am.

The crew was at the scene for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, thieves tried to steal a car from a property in broad daylight.

The attempted theft happened on January 24 between 2.30pm and 4.30pm at an address in Marton near Welshpool.

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New twist in probe over football club's grant aid

Report by Jonny Drury

A ROW over an alleged unpaid repayment grant from a football club has taken another twist.

It has been revealed that the board the money was supposed to be paid to went dormant in 2013.

Last week, following an investigation by private investigator Paul Wiseman, information surrounding an £80,000 grant to The New Saints in Oswestry was revealed.

Man made threat to cut off head

A MAN threatened to cut his social worker's head off and put it on a stick in Welshpool town centre when he rang a department at a local authority.

Luke Danny McEvoy, 21, of Bryn Y Castell, Newtown, phoned Powys County Council's children's services department on January 10, ranting to the call handler about his social worker.

He said in the call: "I'm going to kill her and cut her head off and she won't see it coming." He also told the call handler he was going to put her head on a stick outside council offices in Welshpool.

At Welshpool Magistrates Court on Tuesday last week, McEvoy admitted sending a public communication of an offensive, indecent, obscene and menacing character.

The call lasted for ten to 12 minutes and the police were called, and McEvoy was arrested.

Robert Hanratty, defending, said his client never had any intention of carrying out his threats, and had called the council in a distressed state.

Magistrates made McEvoy subject to a 12-month community order, which included 50 hours of unpaid work.

He was also ordered to pay £85 costs and an £85 victim surcharge.

Mr Wiseman, who was instructed by private clients to look into the matter, discovered a chain of emails regarding the grant which was agreed back in 2012.

He alleges the money was never paid back, and presented his findings to Oswestry Town Council, which has asked Shropshire Council for more information on the matter.

The money was for TNS to build extra seating to allow them to compete in European competitions – and the club has said it has met its "outputs and objectives".

The money, given by Shropshire Council, was due to be paid back to Oswestry Town Council through the Oswestry Joint Economic Board. However that went dormant in 2013.

A spokesman for Shropshire Council said: "A formal grant offer agreement was produced by Shropshire Council setting out the terms and conditions of the Market Towns Revitalisation Programme grant.

"The terms of the grant agreement between Shropshire Council and New Saints FC Limited, specified that the applicant would deliver grants of £16,000 per annum for a period of five years for purposes to be agreed by the Oswestry Joint Economic Board – this was reliant on projects being established by the board.

"The agreement stated that the criteria of these grants would be agreed by the Oswestry Joint Economic Board, with delivery of the annual grants from January 1, 2013. The board went dormant in 2013."

Last week the Saints said: "We confirm that the club has fully met all of the grant outputs and deliverables outlined in the Grant Funding Agreement."

The club outlined in a further statement that since their existence at their Park Hall base they have added £4 million to the local economy.

Say cheers to village distillery



Alex Toller and Alison Parr raise a glass to the success of the new venture

WHEN Chris Toller returned to the UK after working in Abu Dhabi for two years he was undecided on what his next step to be.

He didn't have his next job lined up, and told a colleague before returning home to Morda, near Oswestry, that he had two things he wanted to do.

One was to breed snails for eating and the other was to build a small distillery in his garage.

None of the plans ever materialised, but after taking a part time job working at Stonehouse Brewery on the edge of the village, Chris began pushing owners Shane and Alison Parr to develop a distillery.

Two years on and Shane and Alison,

along with Chris and his wife Alex, have started distilling whisky and gin, with the first batch now settled for maturation.

Each batch of whisky has to sit in wooden barrels for three years, but alongside the gin distilling, Chris is excited about what the future holds for the new venture called, Henstone Distillery.

He said: "We made our first batch in December and another one this month which is now going to mature, and we have bourbon casks here that can hold up to 200 litres.

"The plan is to make apple brandy, whisky, gin and bourbon, so there will be quite a lot going on."



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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Oswestry area politicians are celebrating news that £9.3million is on the way to the area for road improvements which will help bring hundreds of new homes to the town – but it won't solve the ongoing nightmare for A5 travellers. There was a warm welcome this week for the government announcement that it is giving the grant to the Oswestry area as part of an £866m investment in vital infrastructure projects across England, helping get up to 200,000 potential new homes off the ground. But £9.3million is just a drop in the ocean when you consider the latest failed attempt at improving Mile End roundabout cost £4 million and did absolutely nothing to improve the flow of traffic.

It's certainly good news for Oswestry because it means the planned 750 housing scheme can go ahead and that means jobs and an economic upturn for the town and surrounding areas but the current roads network simply won't cope. The announcement says improvements will be made at Mile End and Whittington roundabouts but without a major investment in a dual carriageway for the A5 the traffic hell facing thousands of motorists on a daily basis will only increase – and that's certainly not good news for Oswestry's economy. It would be common sense and perfect timing for the government to follow this announcement up with another, confirming the much talked about A5 improvements, but I wouldn't hold my breath on that one.

It's only when we have no water that we realise how dependent we are. There's nothing quite like waking up on a Monday morning to a dry tap situation and the news that a burst main may take hours to fix. And that's just what happened this week. Severn Trent were working flat out to get an emergency supply started as I wrote these notes but the short spell without water brought home just how reliant we have become to a mains supply. As a child I was raised in the countryside where we relied on water from our own well and were used to that running dry in hot summers. Today we are completely lost. So spare a thought for the residents of Cape Town where water supplies are predicted to run completely dry on April 16 unless the rains arrive. Since 1995 the town's population has grown by 79 per cent while water storage only increased by 15 per cent. Didn't anyone see a problem coming?



Larger companies may quit the county altogether



There has been a real focus on investment in Telford



The revamped Flaxmill will provide commercial space

Brexit's big challenges for our growing county

Brexit is bad for business, warns Shropshire Council's head of economic growth. Report by JAMES PUGH

BREXIT is stopping companies investing for the future – and may also force some to pull out of Shropshire altogether, it is claimed.

Gemma Davies, who is Shropshire Council's head of economic growth, warned uncertainty was the biggest threat.

She said businesses were stalling on investment that would otherwise bring millions of pounds and thousands of jobs to the county.

Ms Davies's views are respected as she has the ear of big companies and is also responsible for growing business for the benefit of Shropshire.

She said bosses were telling her that confusion over Brexit was preventing important investment. And she warned that multi-national companies with a presence in Shropshire may up sticks completely. She said: "Companies seem to be delaying decisions, particularly in investing. The larger ones with their headquarters in Shropshire may be thinking whether it would be best to move to Europe."

Ms Davies said 2018 was crucial to Shropshire, with several big projects offering a potential for jobs. They include Shropshire Council's decision to buy Shrewsbury's shopping centres as well as key sites that need redevelopment, including Clive Barracks, near Market Drayton, and Ironbridge Power Station.

Shropshire's economic plan aims to create 3,700 new jobs and build 1,375



Uncertainty caused by Brexit is the biggest threat, says Gemma Davies

homes every year by 2021. Ms Davies said Oswestry Innovation Park and Shrewsbury Flaxmill were also key areas of growth, as well as developments in agriculture including world-leading research carried out at Harper Adams University. Ms Davies says uncertainty is the biggest threat – and that multi-national companies with bases in Shropshire may eventually lose patience and move back to Europe.

She added: "The uncertainty is causing concern. We have been speaking to businesses about what challenges and opportunities they see Brexit will have on them. More work will take place on that this year."

"Companies seem to be delaying decisions, particularly in investing. The larger ones with their headquarters in

Shropshire may be thinking whether it would be best to move to Europe."

"Shropshire is a big county and has a huge business base. Ninety per cent of businesses employ less than 10 people and 99 per cent employee 250 people or less. This is more typical in a rural county. As well as wanting to attract big businesses we recognise the importance of smaller businesses and we want to continue to support them."

"Looking ahead, advanced manufacturing and engineering is an area for opportunity."

"We have been working on the food and drink sector, and have been working with Harper Adams University. We also already have big companies like Muller who seem really happy here in Shropshire."

"We want to support potential growth opportunities in agri-tech, looking at agricultural engineering and precision farming. We have been working with Harper Adams, with a particular focus on attracting and supporting businesses from the university."

"The health and social care sector remains Shropshire's biggest employer and I expect that to continue to be the case. Environmental science and technology is also another sector we are keen to support."

"Telford is a completely different offer. It is an urban area with bigger sites and bigger businesses."

"There has been a real focus on investment in Telford in the last several years. But I am not sure what has worked over there would fit in Shropshire."

"We need to keep companies here and be ready when opportunities come for new businesses. There are many economic opportunities coming up. We obviously have our local plan where we need to find space for employment by 2036. One of the challenges is finding land that is ready."

"The Oswestry Innovation Park is a key project for us. We are proud of the extension and want to see development happen in that location."

"We have a good relationship with the MoD and have identified Clive Barracks near Market Drayton as an opportunity. It is a significant site which will have housing, but we want to see employment on there as well."

"The site of the Ironbridge Power Station is massive, which provides a huge opportunity. We want to see some economic activity as part of a mixed use site. We are very much in support of the development of the Shrewsbury Flaxmill. It is a great location next to the railway station in the centre of town and offers a great commercial space."

WORKING FOR YOU



There is so much written and debated about the UK leaving the European Union that even I've had enough. I can well understand why so many of us are confused about what's actually happening. So let's recap. At the referendum on June 23, 2016, the voters of the United Kingdom voted 52 per cent to 48 per cent to leave the European Union. Over 17 million of us voted leave, the biggest popular vote for anything in British history. We are leaving the EU. We are leaving the Single Market. We are leaving the Customs Union. We are taking back control of our borders. We are taking back the power to make our own laws. There will not be a second referendum. All this is settled. But there are many secondary issues that are not settled. And there is uncertainty about how much difference there will be!

Leading up to the referendum, many voters told me they were unsure about which way to vote. I sympathised. Although I eventually decided to vote leave, it was after much soul searching and with much uncertainty. On one hand I did not want the UK to be governed by an unelected bureaucracy in Brussels, while on the other hand I knew there would inevitably be uncertainty about the future. Despite the remain case being put by the Government, backed up by the entire civil service, the Bank of England, the CBI, the EU, world leaders including the US President and the entire UK establishment, I found myself not believing a word that was being said.

At the time, I found this quite shocking. I'd never felt like that before.

We were told a leave vote would deliver "an immediate and profound economic shock" with a sudden GDP contraction.

The GDP actually went up. The Treasury told us there would be "four quarters of negative growth". Growth has been positive ever since. We were told unemployment would rise 820,000 after a leave vote. Last week unemployment reached a 42-year low!

The reason this is interesting this week is that last week, a report was "leaked", which we're told had been written by Treasury and Cabinet Office officials again warning of massive negative economic consequences. I'm sure they have been written with their usual honourable dedication and integrity. As they were last time. We will all have to make up our own minds about whether we agree or not.

Glyn Davies
Montgomeryshire MP

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Doubts about Future Fit programme

IN March 2014 a decision to close one of Shroshire's A&Es was made, apparently without consultation, and not saying which one. It later proved to be the PRH. Remember it had been tried before.

In August 2015 Sath, in forecasting a deficit of £17.2m, claimed that the saving made by closing an A&E would not significantly change the financial situation. Since then a fair proportion of £4m has been spent on relentlessly promoting this financially neutral

proposal. After many years, during which the opportunity has been taken to include the utterly irrational decision to include the transfer of the Women and Children's Unit in the package, we are reaching the consultation stage. One safe bet: If the design and manner of the consultation and the method of assessment is done by Sath and Future Fit, or a company of their choosing, it will inevitably reveal that Sath and Future Fit got everything right.

Unless major bodies, e.g. Telford & Wrekin Council and Shrewsbury Council etc are partners in developing the consultation material, it will be a back-slapping farce. One consistent factor has been the refusal, or inability, of Sath and Future Fit to make reasons for their decisions public. Now we must be given facts in readable form, so the relevant conclusions can be scrutinised.

BOB GROOM
Telford

Landlords are bailing out as the system on rent changes

IT used to be that the problem was immigration – too many people coming into the country. Now it's migration – too many people leaving the country.

One in five doctors of EU origin is thinking of going back. One thousand city lawyers have registered to practise in Ireland.

As soon as the ink was dry on the last EU deal and the cheering subsided a bit of hard thinking revealed that we had promised some £39 billion plus not as an EU solution, but as the fee to sit at the poker table.

According to Mr Barnier we have just signed away most of our banking business. A business equivalent to half the cost of the NHS. Next a few give-aways on cars and the like that will suit the EU. Then the terms for paying back the £39 billion. If we look at Greece, we see payday loans of horrific proportions, and I can only see a repeat. We were the fastest growing country in the G7, now the slowest. No one knows why. Well it's all down to private sector landlords.

What is happening is that landlords are bailing out. Extra stamp duty. A change in taxation from tax on profit to tax on revenue. Then Universal Credit says we will pay the drug addict housing allowance direct and he will learn to balance his sums and not spend the rent on heroin. No surprise the number of private sector landlords taking on people on these terms is shrinking. What happens to them now?

It's all short-sighted. This is what happened to Shropshire. No one was really bothered about our specific and unique needs. No-one wanted to talk about it and no-one cared. The powers that be were arranging deckchairs on the Titanic.

It's not really about Corbyn or May or Johnson or Gove. It's about a system that hothouses such people.

ROBIN LLOYD
Ellesmere

It's time to set a maximum wage

THERE will always be down and outs, whether self inflicted or otherwise, and the food banks grow daily.

This is, of course, deplorable, but inevitable in a society which has lost all reason and sense of values.

Great store is set upon the minimum working wage, totally inadequate when prices rise as rapidly as mayfly in season, and the supermarkets belch their bloated way to prosperity.

Has anyone ever thought about setting a maximum wage? Politicians get more than they need and then have the audacity to claim expenses for a box of tissues when they have a cold.

B MAWDESLEY
Llanidloes

Image shows old barriers at village crossing



This far, and no further... Whittington level crossing is seen here 50 years ago, on January 21, 1968, with the photographer capturing the arrival of the train. According to the original caption the level crossing was the site for a proposed continental railway crossing. That may have meant lift-up barriers – because that is the nature of the crossing today.

Phone vigilantism has turned into a dangerous hobby

HEADLINES regarding police failing to follow due processes, which, had a devastating impact on the lives of one young man and his family, has exposed a dangerous precedence of getting a conviction regardless of guilt or innocence.

Some blame government cuts within a struggling authority, some say incompetence, others, wonder about the role of police being diminished by a growing army of phone camera vigilantes, a culture, that has turned the concept of neighbourhood watch into a sinister hobby.

We live in a world duped into a normality of friends and neighbours spying on each other. The reliance on unauthorised vigilantism has contributed to an erosion of trust within authorities and communities.

Vigilantes should be aware their actions may result in themselves being on the wrong side of justice!

The acceptance of pseudo vigilantes as unpaid law keepers ridicules the demand for more police.

VIC TONKS
Dawley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
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Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

ian.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Liberalism brings its own problems

THIS country is on the brink of anarchy as there is very little discipline, as we have seen in Shrewsbury and the capital with stabbings happening over the New Year celebrations.

The main problem is we have created a society of rights without responsibility, and this has been caused by rampant liberalism without a thought for the consequences.

I never thought I would see the day when every householder has to put up CCTV to protect themselves.

MARK NORWOOD
Whittington

A joy to watch culinary treats on my television

MANY years ago when I first started work, the first job that I had was as a trainee/ commis chef, so I enjoy watching the televised cookery programmes.

The series that has just recently finished – Mary Berry's Country House Secrets – was absolutely brilliant in two ways.

Obviously the cookery was the main object.

But it also allowed the viewer to understand a little bit more about the history of both the houses and the families.

Another couple who always leave me laughing at their antics while trying to enlighten us about the culinary delights which they are informing us of are the Hairy Bikers, Dave Myers and Si King.

What an absolute joy it is to find people who find such joy out of the easily preparable delights, instead of seeing cookery as a chore.

It is super to witness such light hearted informative masters of the art.

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"As well as a venue for professional theatre productions, the theatre will be used by community groups, amateur drama societies and arts organisations."

Sarah Peacock, associate assistant headteacher, said: "This valuable activity would not be possible without the kind support from the rotary and local businesses and the school is grateful, as always, for the 'real life' opportunities these interviews offer".

Prior to her visit, the leader insisted there were massive tasks facing Wales following Brexit, and the risk she believes a UK Conservative Government poses to Welsh jobs and services.

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Calls for a 20mph limit rejected by councillors

A CALL to lower the speed limit to 20mph in residential areas across the whole of Shropshire has been voted down.

A motion for the county to follow other areas in bringing in a blanket speed limit was defeated.

The idea was put forward by Shropshire Council Liberal Democrat Hannah Fraser and was supported by Labour and the Green Party. She called for the council's scrutiny committee to form a task-and-finish group on the issue.

But the idea, already taken up by other councils such as Bristol and Edinburgh, was defeated by five votes to three. Councillor Fraser said: "Shropshire's current policy does not deliver what people want, which is less traffic and less speeding on our residential streets."

"I cannot understand why the council won't look at this properly, find out how much it would cost and what the benefits would be. Many communities have been asking for 20-mile-an-hour limits for years, and their requests continue to fall on deaf ears."

Councillor Dan Morris, Conservative, insisted the issue was still up for debate and would be discussed again by another committee in March.

Councils across the UK have brought in 20mph zones.

Warrington Borough Council has reported a 25 per cent decline in collisions as a result of its 20mph policy and the Scottish Parliament is considering new legislation to make 20mph general throughout Scotland on residential roads. Bristol has also brought in a blanket ban.

A reduction to 20mph has also been discussed by Oswestry Town Council in the past.

More stores ban energy drinks sales to children

Report by Sue Austin

MORE convenience stores have signed up to a campaign in villages around Oswestry to stop selling energy drinks to under 16s.

One shop owner says that the caffeine drinks are not only fuelling a future diabetes epidemic but they are also getting children addicted to caffeine.

West Place Stores in Gobowen, along with Premier Stores in Whittington and Weston Rhyn Stores are the latest shops to join a voluntary ban on selling to young people.

Last week three outlets in St Martins agreed to support the campaign, which was started by Keith Allum, who helps to run a youth club in the village.

Vikki Evison, from West Place Stores, said she was pleased the campaign was running.

"Some years ago we decided in our shop not to sell these energy drinks to primary school children," she said.

"We are facing a diabetes explosion among our young people and the more we can do to prevent this the better."

"But I am also worried about the effect that caffeine drinks are having on young people. I have noticed that teenagers might come in and buy one of the drinks."

"But over time they seem to become immune to the effect of the caffeine and so will then come in and buy two drinks, or come in twice a day. This really worries me."

Chef and campaigner Jamie Oliver has also praised the St Martins initiative.

Special birthday celebrations for Alice



Alice Davies has just celebrated her 100th birthday

CENTENARIAN Alice Davies celebrated her milestone birthday with a party.

The great-grandmother, who was born in Ruyton-XI-Towns, near Oswestry, and lived in Market Drayton in later life, turned 100 on January 19.

Family and friends joined her for a belated party at Coverage Care's Greenfields home in Whitchurch.

Chief executive of Coverage Care, David Coull, paid tribute to Alice on her special birthday.

He said: "Alice made a big contribution to her community, working in the school and hospital, and with her involvement in the local church."

"She deserves every congratulations on reaching such a milestone birthday and everyone at Greenfields was delighted to be able to share her special day."

The 100-year-old married her late husband William Davies in 1983 at the age of 16, and they had three daughters, Maureen, Anne and Margaret.

The couple moved to Blackpool but returned to Shropshire in 1939 at the outbreak of World War Two in the hope of a safer and quieter life.

The family enjoyed a party and Alice received a card from the Queen.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sundial is stolen from churchyard

AN historic sundial has been stolen from a churchyard.

The 17th century brass sundial was prized from its stone plinth outside the front door of St Tysilio's Church between Llanymynech and Four Crosses. Churchgoers noticed it was missing on January 11 but they can not say when it was last seen.

Carol Davies, churchwarden, said the sundial is about eight inches in diameter and a golden brass colour.

She said: "Unfortunately we don't know when it was stolen. Although it is in the front of the church and people have to walk past it to go in, no-one can think when they last noticed it but it may have been before Christmas. The churchyard is always busy and we are hoping that someone noticed someone acting suspiciously."

Book-keeper faces £126k fraud claim

A WOMAN from a village near Oswestry has appeared in court accused of defrauding a Shrewsbury-based firm out of more than £126,000 while working as a book-keeper and wages clerk.

Ann Jones, of Heritage Way, Llanymynech, appeared at Telford Magistrates Court.

The 58-year-old is accused of defrauding Jim Dorricott Construction Ltd out of £126,892.26 between March 2013 and May 2016.

Her son Craig Smith, 35, of Balfour Close, Northampton, also appeared in court accused of acting together with his mother to acquire criminal property - £33,774.03 in cash.

Neither of them indicated a plea to the charges.

The case was sent to Shrewsbury Crown Court where the pair are expected to appear on February 26.

They were released on unconditional bail until the hearing.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Last call made for exhibitors

A FINAL call is being made for exhibitors at the Powys Careers Festival later this year.

The event is on March 7 and is hoping for big crowds after the 2017 event saw more than 2,500 young people attend. The event at the Royal Welsh Showground in Llanfawr is free to exhibitors and students attending.

The festival is designed to show the county's young people what opportunities are available to them once they've finished compulsory schooling.

A small number of sponsorship packages are still available. To find out more call (01597) 826695.

Views wanted on well-being plan

POWYS residents are being invited to put forward their views on a draft plan to improve health, communities and the county as a whole by 2040.

The long-term plan sets out 15 key well-being steps which aim to deliver for Powys residents on things such as better broadband, improving mental health services and travelling around Powys.

Councillor Rosemarie Harris, chair of the Powys Public Service Board, said: "This plan sets out the Powys we want to see by 2040 and has 15 well-being steps listed within it which have been chosen as the key priorities for the next three years."

Views on the draft plan can be given online by visiting the website at powys.gov.uk/haveyoursayup

The deadline for views to be given on the plan ends on Sunday.

Farming issues will be put into the spotlight

Report by Jonny Drury

FARMERS and rural business owners can find out about diversification at an event with a difference in Welshpool.

Your Future, Your Farm will see a panel of experts giving advice to a guest farmer considering succession planning, diversification and other options for the future of his business.

The audience will be able to listen to the discussions and ask their own questions. The free event is on Thursday next week at Welshpool Livestock Sales, starting at 6pm. Brian Evans, managing partner and head of Lanyon Bowdler's agricultural law team, said the evening would be the ideal opportunity for farmers to consider the legal and financial issues surrounding the future of their business. He said: "We will be joined on the panel by Colin Jones of Whittingham Riddell, Adrian Jones of Barclays Bank and Richard Corbett of Roger Parry & Partners. Between us we have a great deal of experience in working with the farming community and helping to resolve issues which can be complicated and very involved. Our guest farmer on the night will be Stephen Kenyon, senior agent of NFU Mutual Welshpool, and he will be putting forward some challenging questions to our panel about succession planning, diversification, making tax digital and cyber fraud."

The deadline for booking is tomorrow (Friday) and those interested should contact (01743) 273273.

Councillor in doorstep challenge



Scrubbing your doorstep used to be a regular household chore

IT used to be part of the household chores – and now a campaign has been launched for Powys residents to rediscover the benefits of scrubbing the front doorstep.

Powys County Councillor Mark Barnes believes that people should revisit the ways of the 1950s and look after the area at the front of their homes.

He wants people across his home county of Powys as well as Shropshire to get involved.

He said: "Post war, people didn't have much but what they did have they were very proud of, this resulted in sweeping and tidying the pavements and the more iconic image of people scrubbing their own doorsteps."

The councillor added: "Doorstep scrubbing is a bit extreme but if everyone could just pick up the rubbish, mess and weeds outside their homes it would make a major difference to the whole town."

Councillor Barnes is asking people to also take to media and share their views on the results that scrubbing their own step could deliver using hashtag #scrubyourstep

Man sent to jail for 12 weeks for shop thefts

A PROLIFIC offender has been jailed for 12 weeks following a string of thefts from stores in Welshpool last month.

Stephen Ryan Lewis, 26, of Mill Place, Welshpool, was alleged to have committed a number of thefts from stores in the town last month, amounting to £300 worth of items, a court was told.

He appeared in North East Wales Magistrates Court on January 19 where he was convicted of five theft offences.

At Welshpool Magistrates Court on Tuesday last week, the magistrates court heard how Lewis had committed the thefts while he was the subject of a community order for another theft matter.

His thefts began on January 5, the court was told.

On that occasion he stole an £80 electric toothbrush from Boots in Welshpool.

That was followed by the theft of six steaks worth £30 from Aldi in Welshpool on January 15.

On January 17, he then stole £20 headphones from Tesco.

He stole two bottles of gin and two steaks from Aldi on the same day, which cost £43.

On January 18, he then returned to Boots on Broad Street in the town to steal gifts sets valued at £124, the court was told.

Magistrates sentenced Lewis to 12 weeks in prison for each offence to run concurrently, and said the reason for a jail term was that the 26-year-old is a prolific offender.

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12 School could close as part of shake-up

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, February 8, 2018

A SCHOOL near Oswestry could close to save almost £100,000 a year as a local authority begins a consultation on restructuring education.

Pontfadog CP School is one of three schools in the Ceiriog Valley Federation of Schools that is under consultation as Wrexham Borough Council looks to save money. Along with Ysgol Cynddelw in Glyn Ceiriog and Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog CP School, Pontfadog school staff and parents have the chance to put their views forward until February 21.

Wrexham Borough Council insists they are exploring options to "ensure the sustainability in the immediate future, and provide the most effective and efficient education services to the pupils of the Ceiriog Valley".

Option one is to keep the system the same, with Llanarmon as Welsh medium, Pontfadog, which has 18 pupils, as English medium, and Cynddelw as dual stream. All three have budget deficits.

The second option is to make Cynddelw, which has 98 pupils, a Welsh medium, with any English medium students moving to Pontfadog. This would save almost £100,000.

The third option would see Pontfadog close and pupils relocated to Cynddelw saving £98,550.

Council tax is likely to go up by five per cent

PEOPLE living in Powys are likely to see a five per cent increase in their council tax bills in April.

The county council's cabinet, which met on Tuesday last week, recommended that the full council set the above inflation increase when it convenes on February 22.

The move will generate an extra £3.5 million, which will only part fund the increased investment of £12.8m in vital services for children and the elderly.

It will cost the average band D payer an extra £56.63 for the year bringing the annual council tax bill to £1,189. The figure does not include town and community council and police precepts.

Cabinet member for finance Councillor Aled Davies said the figure included an extra £1m for schools and £179,000 to the fire service.

"The council faces significant challenges over the next few years due to increasing demand and cost pressures but we are committed to rebuild our children's and adults services through this extra investment and addressing the past failures. We must protect those least able to look after themselves," he said.

Councillors heard that despite the increase in council tax the council was also having to look at making savings.

Sporting success sparks an appeal

BEING successful has come at a cost for sporting school – which is now appealing for sponsorship to help fund travelling costs.

Bernie Jones, the head of PE at Welshpool High School, has asked for sponsors to come forward to help meet some of the teams' travelling costs.

He said the school had enjoyed various sporting successes recently.

Mr Jones said: "The school has had considerable success on the sporting field.

"The under 13, under 15 and under 18 boys are currently Powys football champions, while the under 13 rugby team has qualified for the national stages of their respective competition.

"However, with such success there is a financial burden for the travelling to play the away ties.

"Financially, the school is unable to provide the money to cover transport costs due to the current economic climate. As a PE department, we are seeking sponsorship of the teams so that we are able to fulfil the fixtures. I am sure that you agree this is a great opportunity for our pupils.

"If you are able to help in any way to cover travelling costs please get in touch."

To offer sponsorship contact Mr Jones at the school on (01938) 552014.

Permit system for waste centres will stay despite criticism of authority's arrangements

Report by Jonny Drury

bours and friends to do the same sometimes by hiring a van.

"For the first time in my life this ability has been removed by Powys County Council forcing me to register one specific vehicle that can be permitted to enter the recycling facility.

"I have a small van for domestic use only; my wife has a trailer; sometimes we hire a larger van when projects arise.

"Your policy of enforcing trade waste to pay for disposal is understandable, but your process for achieving this is diabolical. Me, and anyone else from my address, should be able to take non-trade waste to the recycling facility as

many times as may be necessary, in whatever vehicle, van or trailer we choose.

"Your job is to enforce the trade waste issue, and in doing so not prevent domestic users from fulfilling their civic duty.

"The current permit system was hastily conceived and is not fit for purpose. Please will you rethink this process?"

In his response, Councillor Davies insisted the system is being used by other councils up and down the country, and he did not see it being changed.

He said: "The Household Waste Recycling Centres are provided for residents to dispose of their own household waste. They are not provided for commercial use as under the legislation businesses must make their own

arrangements for their waste and recycling and are required to pay for this service ensuring that all relevant documentation is held to prove that they have disposed of their waste legally. Unfortunately many businesses do try to circumvent the system and illegally use the Household Waste Recycling Centres. It is of course impossible to prevent all such use, but having controls in place for commercial vehicles and trailers does make it more difficult."

He continued: "We do appreciate that this may inconvenience householders who do use a commercial vehicle as their private mode of transport, but unfortunately it is very difficult for a site attendant to identify what is and what isn't commercial waste as it may look identical."

Superfast access 'to reach 97pc of households' by 2020

Report by Dominic Robertson

SUPERFAST broadband will be available to 97 per cent of homes in the Shropshire Council area by 2020, it has been announced.

Councillor Nic Laurens, the authority's cabinet member for economic growth, said the figure should be reached if companies fulfil their "commercial obligations".

It comes after figures released by independent advice website thinkbroadband.com, stated that only 81.8 per cent of homes in the Shropshire Council area currently have superfast access.

The figure falls to 77.9 per cent for Powys, although 97.1 per cent of homes in the Telford & Wrekin area can get superfast access. The statistics were released as the government claimed victory in its bid to provide 95 per cent of homes in the country with superfast capability.

Mr Laurens said he believed Shropshire's figure is higher than stated because the analysis did not include fixed wireless connections.

He said: "Using the government's data source, which only uses BT and Virgin statistics and disappointingly excludes fixed wireless broadband, the comparable figure for the council area is 82 per cent.

Figure

"We believe a more accurate figure taking into account superfast fixed wireless broadband, which is available to over 25,000 premises in the Shropshire Council area, is closer to 90 per cent."

He said the council's contracts through Connecting Shropshire had provided access for thousands of homes and that he expects the project to hit the 97 per cent mark by 2020.

He said: "Since 2013, we have put over 58,000 premises within reach of a superfast broadband connection through these contracts. We have a further 16,000 premises to cover by 2020, by which time we expect the percentage in the Shropshire Council area will rise from 90 to 97 per cent, assuming that all providers complete their current commercial obligations."

Councillor Laurens said more money is available to complete the council's aim of providing all its premises with access to superfast broadband.

He added: "We are currently working to address the final projected gaps."

Last week the government said its £1.7 billion roll-out to reach the 95 per cent figure had created 50,000 jobs.

High hopes for hospice's £30,000 climb bid



Hospice fundraisers Hannah Penney and Amanda Jones greet Alan and Sioned Jones plus Anthony Jones from Sional Promotional Merchandising. A HOSPICE is hoping a trek to the summit of Snowdon by 300 walkers will raise £30,000.

Supporters of Hope House Children's Hospices, which is based at Morda near Oswestry and in the Conwy Valley, will make the trek on July 1 to raise funds. Organisers of the event are hoping to recruit around 300 walkers to raise at least £30,000, to help towards the running costs of the charity. Each walker, who has to pledge to raise £100 each, will be provided

with a free T-shirt, supplied by merchandising company Sional, which will be sending its own team to the top of Snowdon to help with the fundraising. All those completing the nine-mile trek along the Llanberis Trail will also get a medal plus hot soup and roll. Experienced mountain guides will be along the route and at the check-in points to ensure everybody stays safe. Hope House fund-raiser Amanda Jones, who is working with event organisers Eight-

PointTwo Adventure, said: "This is the first time that we have taken on a challenge such as the Snowdon Trek and I am thrilled that we are already seeing a great deal of interest from our supporters."

Sional co-founder Sioned Jones said: "Before my husband Alan and I set up the company, I worked as a nursing assistant at Ty Gobaith along with my sister Pamela so I know what a fantastic place it is."

Concern raised at cashless dinner payment scheme

A POLITICIAN has voiced her concerns about a cashless school dinner payment system in Powys.

Mid and West Wales Labour AM Joyce Watson raised the issue of Powys County Council's system, and how the authority has decided to stop serving lunch to high school pupils whose parents have not credited their payment cards.

The politician acknowledged that the council needs to tackle debt, but insisted it shouldn't lead to children going hungry.

She said in the Senedd: "There's an evident

link between cashless payment systems and better take-up of free school meals, that's why I have campaigned for every council to introduce the system to every school in Wales.

"Powys has done that, which is fantastic, but we now have a situation whereby children whose parents pay for lunch and who haven't topped up their cards will no longer be able to get food.

"I understand the council's position, but it cannot be right that a child should go hungry because mum or dad has forgotten or cannot

afford to pay the dinner money that week. I am particularly concerned that this is sorted out before the introduction of Universal Credit to Powys in June, as we still don't know how this will affect eligibility for free school meals, in terms of dropping on or off the register."

In response, First Minister Carwyn Jones agreed children should not miss out on school meals and agreed to refer the matter to the education minister.

He said: "My own son's school introduced cashless payments this term, which I have to

say, saved on scrambling around for pound coins every week, which is what tended to happen in our house.

"The important point is this: I don't think it would be right that if there's no credit in a child's account, as it were, that that child should not have a meal as a result of that.

"There should be a system in place where parents are reminded in a timely fashion as to what the balance is on that account and not find out about it when the account has nothing in it."



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Beautiful villages sit in idyllic countryside

14
Oswestry & Border Chronicle
Thursday, February 8, 2018

Commercial feature

The beautiful villages of Llanymynech and Pant sit in the glorious Mid Wales countryside but are also within easy travelling distance to the nearby towns of Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Welshpool.

Visitors come to the area from near and far to enjoy stunning scenery and the villages and the surrounding area are well served with caravan parks, pubs, restaurants, bed and breakfasts and churches.

Other local businesses in the area include convenience stores, hair salons and veterinary centres while the area's school lies right at the heart of the community.

Llanymynech and Pant have a proud industrial heritage.

The picturesque village of Llanymynech is home to one of only three remaining Hoffmann kilns in the British Isles, and the only one with a chimney. The kiln at Llanymynech was used for lime burning. The area around the kiln is designated as the Llanymynech Heritage Area. Many visitors to the area enjoy a visit to the nearby Montgomery Canal.

Wildlife thrives along the Montgomery Canal. It is one of the most important canals in the country for nature, much of it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Welsh section is of international importance, designated a Special Area of Conservation for its aquatic plants. The canal is the best location in the world for floating water plantain.

Otters and water voles have also been spotted along its length.

Several nature reserves border the canal, filled with wildflowers and insects, including dragonflies and damselflies.

Walking or cycling along the towpath is an excellent way to experience the peace and tranquility of this rural canal.

The canal towpath has recently been resurfaced between Newtown and Welshpool



The picturesque and peaceful Montgomery Canal is a big draw for visitors to Pant and Llanymynech

and work continues to the border at Llanymynech.

This is also a popular canal for canoeing – paddling quietly through peaceful green surroundings is a great way to spot wildlife.

The canal is home to 126 listed structures including the Llanymynech limeworks which includes the rare restored Hoffman Kiln and chimney, both features of a forgotten industrial past that included quarries, limekilns and

woollen industries. While the canal was closed to boats for many years, it is now being reborn as a cruiseway through the picturesque Welsh Marches.

One restored section connects to the



The villages of Llanymynech and Pant sit in picturesque countryside

Llangollen Canal, while the other is only accessible by a slipway at Welshpool.

Work continues to join the two sections through volunteers and the work of the restoration partnership.

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Runners urged to hot foot it for charity bunny run

PEOPLE are being invited to don their bunny ears and hot foot it over to Oswestry to raise money for a charity which helps children with movement problems.

The Oswestry Bunny Run, which is in its third year, takes place on April 8 with all proceeds going to The Movement Centre in Gobowen.

Registration is now open for the five-kilometre (three-mile) fun run, which takes in

Report by Mark Andrews

the attractive green spaces of the border town.

Over the past two years the event has raised more than £2,000 for charities in Shropshire.

All proceeds from this year's run will go to The Movement Centre, based at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, for its pioneering work improving the mobility of children with disabilities.

The centre's therapies help youngsters

with their movement control, such as giving them head control so they can interact with their family. They can also help children sit unaided, so that they can play with their friends.

In some cases, it is possible to help children to walk.

James Manford, co-organiser of the event, said: "The concept of the Bunny Run was to raise money for local charities as well as connecting the community through sport." To take part register online at www.bunnyrun.co.uk



The Movement Centre director Pauline Holbrook, Jac Porter, who attends The Movement Centre, and James Manford, co-organiser of Oswestry Bunny Run

Progress is being made on safety drive

A PROJECT to install lights near to the Royal Welsh Showground following the death of a teenager has taken a step forward.

In July, 19-year-old James Corfield from Montgomery near Welshpool went missing from the showground in Builth Wells and his body was later recovered from the River Wye. An inquest on January 12 found that he died due to an accident. Calls were made following the tragedy to install fencing and lights in the area near the river and the showground.

Builth Wells County Councillor Jeremy Pugh recently told Builth Wells Town Council that he had received prices for installing lights near the Groe car park, which is where James was last seen on CCTV.

Mr Pugh said there had been some debate about whether the lights should be solar lights, but he said he had been advised that they may not get enough light because of the surrounding trees. He said with the solar light, batteries are only guaranteed for 12 months.

Councillor Pugh said the lights they have been looking at are exactly the same as in Groe Street, so they would match and he believes there would be a chance of a £20,000 grant to fund them. He also told the town council that the county council had agreed to pay for the lights once they have been installed and there would be no cost implications for the town council.

Councillors agreed to support the move, and it comes less than a month after the Corfield family said they were keen to work alongside organisations to make the show a safer place.

Boss vows not to cut officers

THE number of police officers in the region will be retained despite fears to the contrary, a police chief has confirmed.

West Mercia's Police and Crime Commissioner has insisted his budget proposals for the coming year outline that he is committed to retaining the number of police officers in the region.

Following claims that the number of officers in Shropshire is due to be cut as part of new plans, John Campion has insisted his new budget is committed to keeping the number of police officers up.

Two serving police officers claimed numbers were to be cut, and it would cause

a "devastating" effect across the county.

However after the force denied the claims, Mr Campion has done the same and said he is committed to protecting the number of PCs and PCSOs. He said: "The police are introducing a new shift pattern for officers in West Mercia. However that has absolutely no connection to numbers of police officers allocated to particular areas. It is purely and simply about making sure that there are more officers on shift, at the times when demand is highest. This is an operational decision, taken by the Chief Constable which I fully support.

Farm hopes to expand

PLANS to extend a chicken farm near Nesscliffe near Oswestry could make the area one of the largest for poultry production in the region.

Shropshire Council has received a planning application from Great Ness Poultry Farm Ltd for an extension of four extra poultry houses on the site. There are four other chicken farm sites close by.

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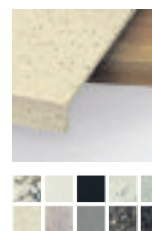
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16 Walking group gives funding to good causes

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, February 8, 2018

MEMBERS of a walking group have donated money to two charities that help people enjoy the outdoors.

The Border Field Club, based in Oswestry, combines short walks with enjoying the flora, wildlife and bird life of the countryside.

Members of the group took time off their monthly walks for the annual meeting in January.

During the evening donations were made to two charities.

Donations were made from members to the Guide Dog Association charity and the Air Ambulance.

Chairman, David Morris, said the Guide Dogs Association was involved with improving signed paths and access to nature reserves for those with sight problems.

"The Midlands Air Ambulance ensures quick medical attention for injured walkers in difficult countryside," he said.

Anyone interested in joining the Border Field Club or interested in finding out more about the organisation are urged to get in touch with club members.

Anyone interested can call (01691) 654359 or (01691) 650993.

"We enjoy short walks, up to three miles, to recognise local flora and fauna and bird song along the way with friends," Mr Morris said.

MBE honour for diocese representative

A MEMBER of a church organisation linked to Oswestry's Marches School has been awarded an MBE.

The Marches Academy Trust announced in November that the Diocese of Lichfield had formally joined the trust. It was announced Colin Hopkins, director of education, would be the diocese's representative on the members' board.

The Marches Academy Trust said it was pleased to announce that Mr Hopkins had been awarded an MBE in the New Year honours list.

He was awarded the honour in recognition for his services to education as a school governor and chair of trustees of the Church of England Central Education Trust.

He said: "This honour has come as a complete surprise and I have accepted it in recognition of all the great work that our heads, teachers, support staff and governors do in our 207 schools.

"I am delighted that this award places the Diocese of Lichfield on the map as a major contributor to the structural reform of the education system."

Sarah Longville, CEO of The Marches Academy Trust, said: "Being awarded an MBE is testament to his hard work and passion for education."

Building firms enjoying growth

SMALL and medium-sized building firms across Powys and wider Wales enjoyed a strong growth in the final quarter of 2017.

The Federation of Master Builders Cymru found in its state-of-trade survey that the pace of growth among Welsh construction SMEs quickened in 2017 compared with the previous quarter.

But fewer construction SMEs predict rising workloads in the coming three months, down from 41 per cent in the previous quarter to 38 per cent in quarter four of 2017. It was also found that two thirds of construction SMEs expect salaries and wages to increase in the next six months.

Ifan Glyn, director of FMB Cymru, said: "Growth among Welsh construction SMEs has now risen for five consecutive quarters. Wales was the only home nation in the UK to experience a faster rate of growth in the final quarter of 2017 when compared to the three months to September. These results are particularly pleasing, and perhaps even surprising, given that rising costs and ever-worsening skills shortages continue to burden Welsh firms.

"However, there is certainly no room for complacency. The skills crisis is getting steadily worse and this is having a knock-on effect on rising salaries and costs."

More than 20 people sleeping rough on the streets of county, new report says

Report by Tom Oakley

MORE than 20 people are sleeping rough on the streets of Shropshire, new figures reveal.

There were 10 homeless people living in Telford & Wrekin in 2017, the highest amount since 2012.

While in the rest of Shropshire – like in 2016 – there were 13 rough sleepers in the county.

The latest figures, which come from a single night in autumn 2017, have been released by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Across the UK, local authorities estimated there were around 4,751 rough sleepers, marking another steep rise in the problem in recent years, up 15 per cent from 4,134 in 2016 to the highest point since comparable records began in 2010.

Charity Homeless Link said the homelessness figures amounted to a 73 per cent rise in rough sleeping over the past three years.

Chief executive Rick Henderson said: "We have a long way to go if rough sleeping is to be eliminated altogether, and as a member of the Rough Sleeping Advisory Group, we will be working with Government and others to ensure a strategic and co-ordinated response is put in place and effective action taken.

"Our members – homelessness and supported housing services – are doing some excellent work, they also need to be recognised as part of the solution, and continued investment

in these vital services is critical. A key part of this will involve guaranteeing that the future funding model for supported housing provides the necessary certainty, stability and sustainability – something we do not believe the current proposals will achieve."

Just one of the 13 sleeping rough in Shropshire was a woman, all were UK nationals while one was below the age of 25. All 10 of the homeless people reported in Telford & Wrekin were men from the UK and three and 30 per cent were younger than 25. The Government says it is committed to investing to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminating it completely by 2027.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government said: "To

break the homelessness cycle once and for all, we are providing over £1 billion of funding, supporting rough sleepers with the most complex needs through a new Housing First approach and bringing in the most ambitious legislation in decades that will mean people get the support they need earlier."

Charity Crisis echoed Mr Henderson's concerns about the figures and called on the Government to take "swift action" to tackle the problem.

Jon Sparkes, chief executive said: "It is truly a catastrophe that in a country as prosperous as this, more and more people are finding themselves forced to sleep in dangerous and freezing conditions, when we have evidence to show how the situation could be turned around."

Report by Dominic Robertson

"DRACONIAN speed enforcement" is not the best way to stop people dying on roads, a police chief has said.

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion appeared to have a different opinion to his chief constable Anthony Bangham over the best way to tackle speeding.

The commissioner spoke after Mr Bangham suggested drivers could be stopped and sent on speed awareness courses for going just one mph above the speed limit.

Mr Bangham made the comments while speaking as the National Police Chiefs' Council lead on road policy at the Police Federation Roads Policing Conference.

He told the conference that police should abandon the 10 per cent buffer for speeders, and that instead anyone caught up to 10 per cent above the limit should be sent on a speed awareness course – which costs between £75 and £100.

Message

He said: "Let's change the message – we are proud to be law enforcers.

"I do not want the public to be surprised, I want them to be embarrassed when they are caught.

"They need to understand the law is set at the limit for a reason.

"They should not come whining to us about getting caught."

However, Mr Campion argued that he was supportive of "more enforcement" – but that stopping people speeding is about education rather than "criminalising more drivers through draconian speed enforcement".

He said: "Too many people are being killed or seriously injured on our roads.

"Changing driver behaviour through education, supported by enforcement, is key to making our roads safer rather than just criminalising more drivers through draconian speed enforcement.

"There is an important difference between 'more enforcement', and 'tougher enforcement' of our laws. I think our communities have a legitimate expectation that their police will enforce the law in a proportionate and pragmatic way. I fully support more enforcement in line with community expectations and I will continue to provide West Mercia Police with significant resources to do this."

Kind-hearted nurse Penny is a Health Hero



Marie Winterton, Penny Oak, Mark Brandreth and Hayley Woodcock, ward manager on Kenyon Ward, at the presentation

STAFF nurse Penny Oak has been recognised for always putting patients first – winning the first Health Hero Award of 2018 at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Penny works on Kenyon Ward and was nominated by Marie Winterton, staff nurse on Oswald Ward.

Marie said: "Penny is a kind-hearted, hard-working nurse who always puts her patients first and gives them gold standard care.

"She is also amazing with her colleagues and will always offer to help in any way she can.

"Many people at the hospital know her for

her kindness and dedication. I feel if anyone deserves this award then Penny does."

Penny's dedication has previously been recognised by patients, being described as a "second mum", after she was shortlisted in 2016 for the Patient Choice Award at the trust's Celebration of Achievement Awards.

Penny said: "I am very humbled to have won a Health Hero Award.

"There are so many other staff members who deserve this award, so to have been nominated and picked as the winner is amazing.

"This is a fantastic start to my year."

The award was presented to Penny by chief executive Mark Brandreth and was formally announced at the January meeting of the board of directors.

Mark said: "When Penny was nominated and shortlisted for the Patient Choice Award it was clear the impact she has on our patients' lives.

"But then to see her nominated by staff for a Health Hero Award just proved to me that staff feel the same way about her.

"I am honoured to announce Penny as our first Health Hero winner of 2018."

Councillors looking at electric car charging options

OSWESTRY could become the first town in Shropshire to have council-run electric charging points in its car parks.

The town council is investigating schemes in which drivers could plug their vehicles in while shopping or having lunch in the centre.

It could attract more visitors to the town.

There are electric charging points in some supermarket car parks in Shropshire and Church Stretton led the way in promoting green energy installing its system three years ago.

Last year Councillor Paul Milner put forward

a motion calling for electric charging points on Oswestry's Central Car Park, run by the town council. He said: "This would not only help make life easier for residents living in the area but it may also attract more visitors to our town due to the very small number of places that provide this service within Oswestry and surrounding areas."

In a report to Oswestry Town Council's meeting last night (Wednesday) deputy town clerk, Arren Roberts said the electric charging point network and market was complex.

With a choice of slow, fast or rapid charging it seemed a fast charge would be the most appropriate option for a car park, he said.

He said: "It would encourage visitors to come to Oswestry, offering a relatively quick charge and hopefully encouraging them to stay for a couple of hours."

He said the council had to consider who the target audience was, whether to connect an EV charging point to a network and whether or not to charge drivers.

It also had to decide whether to be a direct

provider or a host, which would mean a private company leasing the land – car parking bays – from the town council.

Mr Roberts said one company spoken to would offer a 30-minute plug-in. He said: "This would provide about 150 miles of driving and cost the customer £8.40. The electricity supply would be paid for by the company and they collect all the revenue." If the council was the direct provider it could install a pay-as-you-go unit, set the tariff, collect the income and pay the bills.

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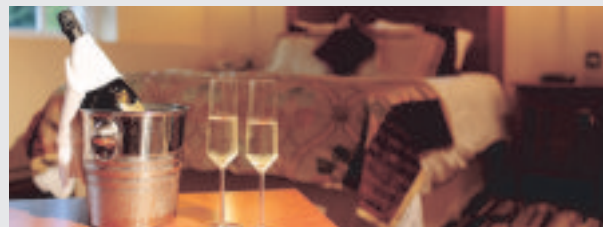
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18 Couple raise funds to help army veterans

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, February 8, 2018

A COUPLE have raised almost £1,000 for a Shropshire charity that helps army veterans.

Michael and Lesley Randall presented a cheque recently to SSAFA Shropshire, which helps members of the ex-service community.

The charity had assisted the Randalls last year following the death of Michael's brother Bernard who had served in the Light Infantry.

The money was raised thanks to landlords at The White Lion and The Market Hotel in Ellesmere and members of Mile End Golf Club near Oswestry.

Michael said: "SSAFA were incredibly helpful to our family at a very difficult time and I wanted to say thank you to them for all they did.

"We have held a number of events to raise funds for the charity and we are delighted to be able to present this cheque."

Brigadier Andrew Meek, chairman of SSAFA Shropshire, thanked the couple and explained that the money raised would enable the charity to continue its much needed work throughout the county.

The role of SSAFA is to help those members of the ex-service community who find themselves in need and each year the branch in Shropshire helps many individuals and families in a variety of ways.

Vintage rally to take place at showground

AN annual vintage vehicle and steam rally and craft fair will be taking place at Oswestry Showground later this year.

The event is organised by the Clwyd Veteran and Vintage Machinery Society Ltd.

It will take place on June 16 and June 17 with gates opening at 10am both days.

Weekend camping is available for visitors and organisers say it is a fun day out for all the family.

Admission costs £15 for a family ticket for two adults and two children. An adult ticket costs £7 and a child ticket costs £4. Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

For trade or general inquiries people should call Bernie Morris on (01978) 762889 or 07545 092072.

For exhibitor inquiries people can call Joan Evans on (01244) 544124 or 07976 872520.

There will be a craft hall, a model hall, steam and miniature engines and vintage tractors.

There will be horticultural and garden machinery on display as well as commercial and military vehicles and classic camper vans. Visitors can enjoy collections and outdoor displays, classic, vintage and veteran cars, vintage caravans, motorcycles and pedal cycles and organs.

Waste centre plan is moving closer

PLANS for a new household waste recycling centre in north Powys have moved closer after Powys County Council submitted a planning application.

The council has submitted a planning application for the new centre on the Dyffryn Industrial Estate in Newtown on land purchased with assistance from the Welsh Government.

The site will be part of the council's plans to secure the long-term future of the county's household waste recycling centres.

The recycling centres in Brecon, Llandrindod and Ystradgynlais are owned by the council.

The current sites in Newtown and Welshpool are privately owned.

Council bosses said the move would help ensure the authority hit recycling targets set down by the Welsh Government.

Cllr Phyl Davies, cabinet member for waste and recycling, said "This investment is part of our long-term plan to secure strategic recycling and waste facilities across the county to provide the infrastructure for us to meet the Welsh Government's ambitious target to recycle at least 70 per cent of waste by 2025."

The application can be viewed online at www.powys.gov.uk by going to the planning and building control page.

Knife Angel heading to Walsall as police and council take action over use of weapons

Report by Jonny Drury

town centre. DC Bradley said: "We continue to be committed to the arrival of the Knife Angel to Walsall for a 28-day period which will spearhead a series of knife events and efforts to raise awareness of knife crime in the West Midlands.

"The importance of the centrepiece to the entire project rests with the successful arrival of the angel.

"Our Police and Crime Commissioner is immensely supportive and keen to see the angel arrive into the Black Country.

"It is our intention to confirm the loan arrangements so that preparatory work can commence locally to site the angel into Walsall

town centre." Inquiries began back in November between the centre and a delegation from Walsall.

It comes on the back of a number of incidents involving knives in the town.

In October, 19-year-old Reagan Asbury was stabbed at a boxing event at Walsall Town Hall.

Reagan, from Pelsall, was attacked after violence broke out at the boxing event on October 14, and a post mortem examination confirmed he died from a wound to his neck.

A man is set to stand trial charged with murder in June, but that hasn't been the only case of knife crime in Walsall to hit the headlines. Just last week, Ammar Kahrod, from Aldridge, was convicted of murdering model James Brindley when he was attacked and stabbed on his

way home from a night out. He had denied murder, but was convicted at Birmingham Crown Court and was sentenced to life in prison.

Mr Knowles said he is delighted the angel will be going on tour after a number of cities expressed a desire to take the angel for a time.

He said: "It is great to see it moving around and we're really humbled that Walsall have shown a commitment to take the Knife Angel.

"It shows they have grit to take this national monument against knife crime and violence because Walsall has suffered a problem in recent months with knife crime."

Plans are for the Knife Angel to be transferred in a cradle to the West Midlands town in April. Perspex glass will be installed around the monument.

Academy trust appoints careers guidance expert

Report by Jonny Drury

THE Oswestry-based Marches Academy Trust has appointed a dedicated careers professional to provide students with the best possible support and guidance.

The move will help ensure the students are well prepared as they move into further education, employment or training.

Meg Murphy, previously owner of her own recruitment business, provides students across the Marches School in Oswestry and Sir John Talbot's School in Whitchurch with independent and impartial career information, advice and guidance, and utilises labour market information.

This knowledge and expertise ensures students have access to the skills required by employers post-Brexit, school bosses say.

Meg said: "It can be a difficult time trying to make future choices but I hope through the information and guidance I can offer and by working closely with local businesses, all of our students can make informed choices about their future destinations".

Programme

Forming part of The Marches School education programme, all students are encouraged to seek work experience in a placement of their choosing.

This offers a valuable insight into the work environment and helps students make career-related decisions.

Students also engage in a wide variety of business and enterprise projects during their studies supported by key sponsors including Oswestry Town Council, Lanyon Bowdler, Tara Recruitment, Furrows of Oswestry, Hawk Plant Hire and Grocontinental.

This provides meaningful interactions with businesses and visiting organisations.

Sarah Longville, CEO, Marches Academy Trust, said: "Through the dedicated support we offer across the Marches Academy Trust, we are able to provide the best possible preparation to all of our students and ensure they do not miss out on the range of opportunities available to them".

The recent appointment comes about in advance of the government-led initiative which indicates every school and college in England is to have a dedicated careers leader in place by the start of the 2018-19 academic year and the Department for Education has allocated £4 million to help fund the appointments.

Thomas is steering a professional path at firm



Jane Coward, Thomas Simmonds and Richard Pettener cut the cake to celebrate Furrows' special occasion

AN apprentice was asked to cut the cake at the centenary celebrations at a Shropshire motor dealer's Oswestry showroom.

Thomas Simmonds, 16, a year 11 student, has been combining his studies with real life work experience with Furrows, as part of The Marches Apprenticeship Programme.

He was asked to cut the cake alongside business owner Jane Coward and general manager Richard Pettener.

Jane said: "As we reflect upon our past suc-

cesses we also look forward to the future and welcome one of our newest recruits Thomas Simmonds into the Furrows family."

Thomas has been attending Furrows' service department for over 12 months, developing a range of skills, learning from the experienced and knowledgeable technicians on site.

Meg Murphy, careers and inspiration officer at the Marches School, said: "The apprenticeship programme is designed to provide students with valuable work experience and an

opportunity to identify and pursue a possible career path.

"We would like to thank Furrows for providing this opportunity, it is only with the support of local businesses that we are able to run the Marches Apprenticeship.

"We are delighted that Thomas has engaged in the programme and has immersed himself in the role.

"We wish him every success in his chosen career path."

Book author makes appeal to Mid Wales football fans

AN author is appealing to football fans in Mid Wales after being commissioned to write a book charting 25 years of the Welsh Premier League.

Reporter Marc Webber was one of the first to cover the league under its first guise in 1992 when it was known as the Konica League of Wales.

The book will chart the league through the years, up until the present day and celebrating its 25th year anniversary in 2017.

The call has been made to fans of Newtown AFC, who were a founder member of the

league, along with The New Saints. However Mr Webber is also appealing to fans of Llanidloes Town, Welshpool Town, and Caersws, who have also competed in the league.

Mr Webber, a lecturer and BBC Final Score reporter, said: "I was one of the first radio reporters on this league with Red Dragon Radio in Cardiff in 1992 and I am currently the presenter of the Welsh Premier League podcast.

"Even when I haven't been writing about the league I've always kept one eye on it and I think it has been a fantastic interesting journey

for all of the clubs and those involved. I know all of the facts and figures, but I really want to tell the human story behind this league here. And what a story there is to tell.

"It started in very controversial circumstances; teams have gone bust, teams have gone to Europe and everybody involved would have had a story to tell about that.

"I know I have and those are the stories that I want to write about."

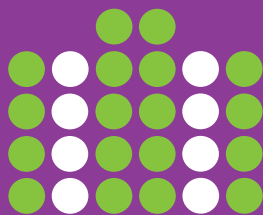
Mr Webber is asking for fans of the clubs or fans in general to send in any old photographs

which will add a story to his book. Anyone with any information is asked to e-mail Marc.Webber@journalist.co.uk.

He said: "Any fans involved with the clubs who have really good stories about those away days, or something special at the club did, I would love to hear about them."

And Mr Webber added: "I really want the book to tell the tale of what it was like to follow these sides over the years and also what fans hope for from the Welsh Premier League over the next 25 years."

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20 Rail bid firm was linked to failed group

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, February 8, 2018

ONE of the companies shortlisted to run trains through Shropshire later this year was in partnership with the failed firm Carillion.

Dutch transport giant Abellio, which runs train and bus routes across the UK, is one of three in the running to win the Wales and Borders franchise.

Wales transport minister Ken Skates says following news of Wolverhampton-based Carillion's collapse, the firm has been exploring how it can best take the franchise bid forward.

Speaking from his constituency office in Llangollen, Mr Skates said the successful bidder would be announced in the spring and would take over in October.

The network includes the Shrewsbury to Chester service, Shrewsbury to Manchester, Shrewsbury to south Wales and the Shrewsbury to Machynlleth Cambrian line.

Mr Skates, whose constituency borders Shropshire, said he would ensure that the new franchise brought an improved, quality service to routes in Wales and in England.

He said: "We have set down minimum requirements and asked the bidders to come forward with innovative solutions to better those."

The other two bidders in the process are MTR and KeolisAmey.

Ex soldier is sent to jail for threats to kill

A FORMER soldier from Mid Wales has been jailed for three years after making threats to kill with an air rifle.

A court heard how defendant Sean Kerry Cook, 50, made threats to kill in December 2017 when possessing a firearm.

On Friday at Mold Crown Court, Cook, of Pen-y-Gaer, Brooks, near Welshpool, was jailed for three years, and then began threatening to go on hunger strike.

On top of threats to kill, he admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence, and two charges of common assault.

Judge Niclas Parry told Mold Crown Court that the incident on December 8 had been a terrifying one for the victims and had lasted a considerable time.

He had overreacted to a minor issue because he was drunk.

Police received whispered messages about what was going on during the incident, however because of the snow, it took some time for officers to get to the scene.

John Hedgecoe, defending, said that his client had made immediate admissions to what was an extremely serious set of offences.

His client was now threatening to go on hunger strike and starve following his sentence.

Mountain safety warning given

A REPEATED warning has been sounded to be prepared when trekking up a mountain after a rescue helicopter was called out for a sixth time in six months to help an injured rambler.

Six rescue helicopters and 12 land ambulances have been sent out to the Llanrhaeadr Waterfall area near Oswestry in the last six months to rescue people who have gone walking in the Berwyn Mountains and got into difficulty.

In December a woman faced a six-hour wait after injuring her ankle, and in the latest incident on Sunday a woman suffered a broken ankle shortly after midday.

A Wales Ambulance Service crew was sent to the scene and the woman was airlifted off the mountain by a search and rescue helicopter.

Phil Facey, who runs the Waterfall Tea Rooms, is the first port of call for many of the incidents on the mountains, and has again made repeated calls for walkers to be prepared.

He said problems can arise on the mountains, and he is seeing an increase in walkers coming ill prepared in the event of an incident.

He said: "They need to have warm clothes and supplies in case something does happen, but they don't."

Expert warns there is now an urgent need to build more care homes in Mid Wales

THERE is an urgent need to build more care homes in Powys to cater for the boom in the over 85 population, a social care leader has said.

Mario Kreft MBE, the chair of Care Forum Wales, said the number of care homes is declining in the area instead of going up.

He described the situation as the "perfect storm".

Mr Kreft spoke out after a new report, A Place to Call Home: Impact & Analysis, by Older People's Commissioner Sarah Rochira highlighted the lack of care home capacity in Wales.

It follows on from a recent Parliamentary Review which contained a similar concern.

Mr Kreft said: "The message is loud, clear

Report by Sue Austin

and very straightforward. We need to be building more care homes.

"Unfortunately, the opposite is happening and we are seeing care homes closing right across Powys because it is not financially viable to keep them open.

"Given the inescapable demographics of an ageing population, we are sitting on a social care timebomb.

"I think Sarah Rochira's report is a real wake up call.

"It shows that we really do need to look at the leadership here in Wales of how we can actually develop a climate and culture where

people want to invest and take the risk and actually build these much needed facilities.

"It is very, very clear that after two decades of people in local government particularly saying we don't want new care homes, we've now had the Parliamentary Review and the Commissioner for Older People saying they're desperately needed as we're losing them faster than we're building them.

Double

"Just before Christmas we had, based on the Office of National Statistics, a report saying that the over 85s population in Wales is going to double in the next 15 to 18 years.

"It is imperative that we create a climate to reverse the decline in the number of care homes

and get people building them again. The sector is chronically underfunded so this needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

"Unless more care homes are built, a lot of these older people are going to end up in hospital where there's no room for them anyway."

"We've got to look at what these very influential reports have said about capacity, about workforce planning, about sustainability and we've got to change the culture.

"We've got to celebrate the independent sector and encourage people to invest.

"It is not happening now because the sums do not add up and if we can't have a vibrant care sector in Wales, the knock on effects for our services and indeed, for the people of Wales are going to be very, very serious indeed."

£9.3 million road scheme will help bring new homes

Report by Sue Austin

A £9.3 million scheme to improve Shropshire's A5 will help bring hundreds of new homes to Oswestry.

The Government has announced that it is giving the grant to the Oswestry area as part of an £866m investment in vital infrastructure projects.

The Western Shropshire Interchange Improvements - Unlocking the Marches Gateway for Housing & Employment Growth - will allow Oswestry's Southern Urban Extension to go ahead, with about 750 houses planned.

Two roundabouts on the A5/A483 will be improved and a new roundabout on Shrewsbury Road going into Oswestry will be built to provide an access into the new developments. There will also be a footbridge built from the housing land over the Oswestry bypass on to land designated to become an employment park.

Fantastic

Shropshire Council's deputy leader Steve Charmley said it was fantastic news for Oswestry. Oswestry's Mile End roundabout, which saw a £4 million roadwork scheme completed four years ago, will be redesigned to allow for the extra traffic pressure that the housing will put on the roads.

The Whittington island to the north will also be improved, again to cope with the expected extra traffic. Councillor Charmley said: "The scheme also includes a pedestrian footbridge to take those living in the new houses across to the Innovation Park.

"This is fantastic news and will benefit not only plans for much needed new housing in the area but also plans for a new employment park."

The employment park is a scheme being worked up by the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership.

Its vice-chair, Mandy Thorn, said: "This work will be a catalyst for economic growth in Oswestry. It is vital that development land for housing and employment is delivered and infrastructure is put in place to allow that to happen. Improvements on this stretch of the A5 will also help lift constraints which limit the area's potential to attract businesses and investment. The project will kick-start a new phase of prosperity for Oswestry, the second largest market town in Shropshire, benefitting the people who live and work there, both now and in the future."

Snowdrops spring to life with top 10 rating



David Lock, head gardener at Chirk Castle, looks forward every year to seeing the snowdrops emerge from the soil

THEY are the first sign of spring - delicate white snowdrops emerging from the frozen winter soil.

And the snowdrops that carpet the pleasure gardens at Chirk Castle have been named as among the best to see across the UK.

Head gardener, David Lock, said that the grounds and part of the castle are now open to the public.

He said: "Snowdrop season at Chirk Castle is our traditional way to dust off the old year and embrace the new.

"I love it when the snowdrops emerge, as

they are now. It is the first sign of spring. They have started to bud and in the sunnier spots they are in bloom and usually last throughout February depending on the weather."

He said the castle's snowdrops included some rare species.

He said: "Because of the wet weather parts of the gardens are not accessible but the good news is that the snowdrop trail is all on good footpaths and is completely open for visitors to wander round.

With winter conservation work still going on inside the castle, the main state rooms are

closed until March 10 however rooms in the lower east wing will be open.

Visitors can enjoy the 1920s themed Bow Room warming their hands over the fire, see the lower dining room and Myddelton Pedigree and watch the De Walden family cinefilm in the butler's pantry.

Off-peak admission tickets apply at the moment.

Chirk Castle is named in second place in the top 10 snowdrop walks, released by the Press Association last week. It is piped to the post by York Gate Garden in Adel, Leeds.

Parking charge arrangements criticised by councillor

NEW standard parking charges across Powys have come under heavy criticism from a councillor.

Powys County Council's cabinet has agreed to make parking charges equal across the county for permits and events.

County Councillor Peter Lewis, who represents Llanfyllin, spoke at the meeting, urging members of the cabinet not to go ahead with the decision.

He believes charges in smaller towns such as Llanfyllin should not be the same as those in

larger towns. He said: "Local needs do differ. "Although I am speaking on the behalf of Llanfyllin I believe many other communities would support the need for a local approach.

"All the towns in Powys are different and are having to change to survive especially in the last 10 years.

"How can you standardise or equate Llanfyllin with larger towns in Powys?

"The needs are entirely different.

"Llanfyllin is not Welshpool with superstores and free parking, or Newtown with banks and

petrol stations, we have no station and the banks have closed, ripping the heart out of our town.

"It isn't Llandrindod Wells with hotels and County Hall, or Brecon where millions of pounds have been spent on a museum."

He added: "It is a small town 50 miles away from County Hall and having to change to survive."

Councillor Lewis said Llanfyllin should have been allowed to govern its own car parking charges.

He said: "Llanfyllin is unique, being the only town in Wales to form a community interest company with 11 other community councils to take over services from Powys County Council to achieve a better level of service for our council tax payers.

"The Minister Guto Bebb at a meeting with our leader Rosemarie Harris echoed our approach by saying towns and villages need to govern themselves.

"We should be shifting powers to local leaders who are better placed."



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22 Wood company appeals against plans decision

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, February 8, 2018

A WOOD panel manufacturer has appealed against a decision to refuse planning permission for a new building.

Chirk company Kronospan has said the wood store is part of its vision for the future of the site and would ensure the factory's long term viability.

Wrexham Council's planning committee turned down the plans for a new raw board store and said it would have a visual impact on the Llangollen Canal, part of the Pontcysyllte World Heritage site.

In its appeal to the government planning inspectorate the company said assessments undertaken by technical advisors showed a reduction in the visual impact from the original proposals.

The company added that no objections were raised by Cadw or the Canal and River Trust, which manages the World Heritage Site.

It stated: "The appeal proposal forms part of Kronospan Vision 2020, a capital investment programme with a total cost of £200 million. Kronospan Vision 2020 involves delivery of new buildings and improved raw material handling facilities. It will also provide significant investment in new manufacturing equipment and the reorganisation of product flow within the existing buildings to improve the efficiency of the manufacturing process."

Fundraiser to support cancer unit at hospital

A NIGHT of fundraising has been organised for a cancer unit.

The Oswestry event will raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust Young Person's Unit (YPU) at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (QEHb).

Organised by Glenys Padfield, a Shropshire resident for the past 35 years, the event will be at Weston Pools clubhouse on Saturday, March 10. The night will include performances from Elvis impersonator Josh Whittall, a hot food buffet, and a raffle.

Glenys was inspired to raise money following treatment a family member received from the unit. She said: "It should be a fantastic night. I have received amazing support from the local community, with many local businesses donating prizes and by printing posters and raffle tickets for free." The raffle will include a signed Manchester United football, flowers, wine, and vouchers for local restaurants.

Sophie Carroll, fundraising officer at QEHb charity, added: "The charity works to go 'over and above' for young people with cancer by providing added extras that have helped YPU to become a home from home."

Tickets are available from Glenys on 07546 104170.

College offering apprenticeships

OSWESTRY'S North Shropshire College currently has a number of apprenticeship vacancies available, with a range of job sectors from agriculture, customer service, gamekeeping, hairdressing and many others on offer for candidates.

College bosses say the vacancies are open to everyone and there is no upper age limit, making an ideal opportunity for those looking for a change of career or a new job.

The apprenticeships team at the college work with a large variety of local and national employers, and also offer a vacancy matching service allowing businesses to post vacancies on the college website and applicants to be matched up to specific employers.

Mike Coleman, apprenticeships manager, said: "We are pleased to be working with so many local employers."

"Apprenticeship training is a fantastic opportunity for people to start their career pathway or indeed to switch to something new if they wish to."

"If any employers are in need of apprentices and want support, we'd urge them to get in touch."

For more information about apprenticeships at the college, or to apply for an apprenticeship, visit the website at www.nsc.ac.uk.

Redundancy programme is launched as council looks to cut millions from budget

Report by Dominic Robertson

VOLUNTARY redundancies are being sought at Shropshire Council as the authority attempts to cut £9 million from its budget.

The council has said that it has no plans for compulsory redundancies, but admitted they could follow if it does make enough savings through voluntary exits.

Last month council leader Peter Nutting said that he expected around 200 positions to go across the authority "in the next year or so".

It comes as the council looks to save around £59.3 million over the next five years.

Clive Wright, Shropshire Council's chief executive, said the authority believed the introduction of technology and new IT systems meant it would need fewer workers in future.

He also said that he hoped the redundancies

would come through the voluntary process. He said: "It goes without saying that it would always be preferable to release staff that want to leave."

"As the organisation modernises and takes advantage of new digital technology and our investment in broadband across the county, the way we deliver work will change."

"Many of our back-office processes will become automated and our front-line services will be able to operate mostly out of centralised buildings."

"This will make us more efficient and most jobs will change."

"Overall there will unfortunately be some job losses."

"As we've said, allowing voluntary redundancy has been our preference, rather than drawn out compulsory redundancies."

"We have found that volunteers for redundancy often go on to flourish outside of the council."

"Each application will be considered individually."

"We do however need to ensure that statutory services can continue to be delivered effectively therefore, not all of those staff who request to leave via voluntary redundancy will be able to do so."

The council said that any payments to those who leave as part of the process will be based

on the existing redundancy policy. Under the proposal it is aiming to save £1 million before March 31, and then £9 million over the next two years through the voluntary redundancy process.

The authority's financial situation has also led to plans to increase council tax by 5.99 per cent.

The increase, up from the rise of 3.99 per cent last year, would represent £75.45 a year more for Band D properties, and £58.68 for Band B homes.

The decision on council tax will have to be taken by full council on February 22.

The authority would only be able to increase council tax to 5.99 per cent because of changes to government policy.

Report by Jonny Drury

A LOCAL authority's children's services department now has a full complement of staff and is making progress after a scathing report.

Interim director of the service, Phil Evans, addressed a full Powys County Council meeting on a number of issues.

He told councillors there is no way to tell how the service has been operating for a long period of time, but insists changes are now being made.

His assurances come after the department was issued with another warning notice to do something to improve, or risk being taken over by the Welsh Government.

Mr Evans said: "We are starting from a low base line. There is no way you could say that Powys's children's services have been operating well for a long period of time. Many key elements are still not in place."

Bad

"Forty per cent of looked after children are placed out of county – it is bad for them and it is exceptionally bad for the budget."

"Matching children to keep placements is not easy. There is much to improve, the question is how."

The council received a second warning recently from the Welsh Government, which acknowledged improvements had been made but said there is still a lot more to be done.

Mr Evans said the improvement plan they have had to enhance and update and present to Care Inspectorate Wales and the Welsh Government is about the council's overall approach to improvement.

He said it has to be done quickly and it must be sustained over a long period of time.

He also admitted the council's aims are supporting families to stay together, providing flexible high quality placements, ensuring youngsters are in placements where they are safe and their needs are met and managing risk consistently and effectively.

Mr Evans added: "We are on the right path, there are positive signs but it will require significant resources – not only financial."

Portfolio holder for children's services Councillor Rachel Powell said the service has to continue. She added: "We will not come out of improvement until there is an outcome that satisfies all interested parties. That is appropriate because we want to ensure that children's services is a safe service."

CCTV catches burglar carrying out pub raid



CCTV cameras captured the raid by the burglar at the New Inn at Baschurch. The Talbot Inn at Ruyton-XI-Towns was also raided.

TWO Shropshire pubs, including one in a village near Oswestry, were burgled on the same night and police want to trace a man captured on CCTV.

The New Inn at Baschurch and the Talbot Inn in nearby Ruyton-XI-Towns near Oswestry were broken into overnight on January 23-24.

In both raids money was taken and an one pub an amount of alcohol was also stolen.

Officers are appealing for witnesses or anyone who might know the burglar seen on the CCTV at the New Inn.

Police community support officer Kerry Hogg said: "We want to trace the man on the CCTV images."

"Please ring 101 and quote the ref: OIS 0348s 240118 if you have any information or recognise the male on the CCTV." Alternatively,

contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or at crimestoppers-uk.org

Recently there was a break-in at the Milano's coffee shop in Oswestry.

A substantial amount of money was taken after burglars got into the premises after climbing over walls to get into the courtyard.

Burglars also recently broke into the Stanton Inn in Chirk while the landlord slept upstairs.

Survey flags up the strengths of maternity service

SHROPSHIRE'S hospital trust was one of only four in the country judged "better than expected" for women's experiences of maternity care.

New mothers cared for by Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (Sath) are treated with respect and dignity, listened to and given the help they need, according to results of a national Care Quality Commission (CQC) survey.

The finding are from the latest survey of women's experiences of maternity care, published by the CQC.

The survey also found that women who

raised concerns during their pregnancy or delivery had those concerns taken seriously, and that they were spoke to in a way they could understand.

The CQC also found that women using the services provided by Sath, which runs Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, as well as midwife led units in Oswestry, Bridgnorth, and Ludlow, knew how to contact their midwife after they had gone home and were given support in helping to feed their baby both at home and out of hours.

The trust scored eight out of 10 or higher in 42 out of the 51 categories relating to the care of mums and babies.

The trust performed statistically better than most other trusts in 13 categories and was about the same in all the others. Sath also saw three statistically significant improvements since the last survey in 2015, against just one statistically significant decline. The one area where Sath saw a significant decline compared to 2015 was in the question about what options mums-to-be were given over where to have

their baby. Jo Banks, women and children's care group director at Sath, said: "We are delighted with the findings of the latest CQC survey into women's experiences of the maternity services that we provide."

"The trust scored eight out 10 or higher in the majority of the questions that women were asked about their care, and scored nine out of 10 or higher in almost half. We continue to learn from the experience of women and we will assess these results to see where we can improve even further."

17th century home offers highly flexible accommodation

Little Hope, at Hope, Leighton near Welshpool is a 17th century cottage that has undergone a large extension.

Currently run as a bed and breakfast business, its flexible layout means it also provides for two co-habiting families, with separate quarters.

In a design which flows with exceptional clarity and focus as a property with an option for two halves, it is for sale through Balfours at £725,000.

Nestled in the hamlet of Hope, Leighton is just two miles from Welshpool, with all necessary services to hand. It is located on the original Offa's Dyke and sits within an acre of garden and grounds in an elevated position on Long Mountain. The result is a magnificent uninterrupted vista across open countryside – a true wow.

The main cottage comprises a porch, a large sitting room with an inglenook fireplace, woodburner and French doors. Adjacent is the library with glazing and views to two aspects and the study – a cosy hideaway. The morning room is the central point of the ground floor from which the stairs ascend to three bedrooms and a family bathroom. Beyond the morning room, the dining room is partially open plan to the kitchen, achieving a fabulous social space with sleek contemporary fixtures in the kitchen. A second study, cloakroom/WC and utility complete the ground floor accommodation.

Agent, Duncan Scobie, of Balfours, said: "Evelyn and Mike Gregory have nurtured Little Hope to create a fresh and spacious home, together with a highly successful bed and breakfast business. The latter is run as Long Mountain Bed and Breakfast, which has received many awards and certificates of excellence, from Visit Wales and Trip Adviser. The guest accommodation reflects this, it provides three spacious double bedrooms, one with an en-suite bathroom and the other two with en-suite shower rooms. A large guest dining/lounge spanning nearly six metres square and an independent guest kitchen allow the guest accommodation to be run totally separately; or for an extended family to enjoy."

KEY FEATURES

17th century cottage
Largely extended
Currently run as a B&B
Flexible layout
Ideal for two families

HOPE £725,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Balfours
TEL: 01743 353511
EMAIL: sales@balfours.co.uk





Historic mill still retains many of its endearing features

ABERBECHAN
£345,000

Totally flexible accommodation and hugely authentic credentials are among the endearing features of Minhafren Mill in Aberbechan.

For sale through Balfours at offers over £345,000, the property sits some seven miles from Montgomery and is within easy reach of Welshpool and Shrewsbury. Minhafren Mill comprises a black and white timbered two-bedroomed cottage, together with an adjoining two-bedroomed barn conversion with a self-contained annexe.

Dating from the early 17th century, this black and white half-timbered property became a fulling mill in the 19th century, utilising the Bechan brook and adjacent canal for the manufacture and transport of goods. Today the waterways simply add an additional layer of rural idyll and charm to the property.



Balfours' agent, Duncan Scobie, said: "Minhafren Mill would suit anyone seeking either a four bedroom home or a flexible two bedroom property with a one bedroom self-contained annexe." Today the integral barn conversion, which includes a drawing room with oil-fired stove, provides a further bedroom, shower room and studio; however, this easily accessible and flexible accommodation would work as third and fourth bedrooms.

Exposed beams, a living room with Clearview log-burner and a kitchen with oil-fired Rayburn all endorse the understated charm of the Mill, highlighted by the ample supply of windows.

Outside there is a large, well-stocked and private garden surrounding the property and an integral garage with room for a workshop.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Recently modernised home within walking distance of town

OSWESTRY
£325,000

>>>

A recently modernised three-bedroomed detached home within walking distance of Oswestry has a lovely outlook across Oswestry Cricket Ground.

Having well-proportioned accommodation, the property on Morda Road is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £325,000. With gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance hall, a cloakroom/WC, a lounge, kitchen, breakfast area, a dining room and a sun room. There are three good-sized bedrooms and a family bathroom. Outside the garden has an enclosed lawn area with a patio. There is a gravelled driveway to the front and a rear driveway leading to the double garage with electric doors.

The town centre is a short walk away and has a host of shops, restaurants and other amenities.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



Detached house with valley views comes with a large decked area

GARTH
£374,950

<<<

An individual detached house with valley views and first floor open plan living, Tyn-Y-Pistyll at Garth, Glyn Ceiriog, comes with a large timber decked area, landscaped gardens and woodland.

It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £374,950. Briefly the property comes with three bedrooms, a shower room and a bathroom.

A turning timber-built staircase rises up from the entrance hall to the upper level lobby with a tiled floor and external door to the rear.

Access leads through to the living area which has a multi-fuel stove fitted to the slate built fireplace, being dual aspect with a large picture window to the rear and concealed radiators. An open plan approach leads through to the dining/kitchen.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.



Spacious three bed roomed detached home is set on a large plot

KNOCKIN
£340,000 >>>

In a sought after location found down a private driveway, Dunvegan at Knockin is a spacious three bedroomed detached bungalow set on a large plot.

It is for sale through Town & Country at £340,000 with no chain.

The accommodation briefly comprises a large hallway, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, three good sized bedrooms and bathroom.

Outside the property benefits from a large driveway with parking for six vehicles, a double garage and attractive rear and side gardens with mature shrubs.

The property is warmed by oil fired central heating and benefits from double glazing throughout. Located in the village of Knockin, this is just eight miles from Oswestry and 13 miles from Shrewsbury.

For more details contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



Spacious detached house enjoys some stunning views

TREFONEN
OFFERS INVITED

Kappara, Spring Bank, Trefonen near Oswestry is a spacious detached house with stunning views towards The Shropshire Plain.

Being a short distance of the village amenities, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co with no chain. The property occupies a quiet elevated position in Trefonen which has a public house, church, shop, sought after primary school and is convenient for the border market town of Oswestry. The accommodation is set over four floors with four half staircases and has oil fired central heating and double glazing.

It has a covered porch similar to a large front veranda, a reception hall with stairs off, a lounge with a marble fireplace, patio doors and a fitted carpet.

The sitting room has a brick fireplace, patio doors and a fitted carpet. Off the first floor is a galleried landing. A study has fitted office furniture and laminate flooring. The dining room has fitted carpet and there is a cloakroom/WC. The kitchen has a range of modern oak



units comprising of matching wall and base cupboards. The utility has a second sink, worktop, plumbing for a washing machine, matching wall and base cupboards, a fitted store cupboard and an oak stable external door. On the second floor is bedroom one with a dressing room and an en-suite and bedroom two. The third floor galleried landing has a large airing cupboard. The bathroom has a five piece suite including a whirlpool corner bath and a bidet. There are three further bedrooms on this floor.

Outside, the property is approached over a tarmac drive providing ample car parking leading to a detached double garage and a top floor store room/play room.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437.



Period property in town retains a wealth of original features

OSWESTRY
£174,950 <<<

In an attractive established residential area, Y Bwthyn on Weston Avenue in Oswestry is a period semi-detached house retaining a wealth of original features.

Within walking distance of the town centre, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £174,950 with no chain. It is also close to schools and colleges.

With gas central heating it has an entrance hall, a living room, dining room, a kitchen, three bedrooms, a bathroom, cloakroom/WC, a front garden and a large rear garden with a patio area and two store sheds.

Outside, the front entrance is approached via a gated pathway and bordered by a low hedge. The front garden is lawned and there is a large lawned garden to the rear with side access, two store sheds and a patio area.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 for more details.



26 Top marks are given out to college's cafes

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, February 8, 2018

A RESTAURANT and cafe run by students at a specialist college has won a maximum five-star Food Hygiene Rating in a recent inspection.

The Derwen College's Orangery Restaurant and Garden Cafe at Gobowen provide training and work experience for students with learning disabilities and are popular eating spots for local people. Students also run the busy Station Cafe at Gobowen railway station.

The five star food hygiene rating in a recent inspection saw top marks given to all catering areas in the college including the restaurant and cafe. Principal director Meryl Green said: "The score is testament to the high standards of cleanliness, hygienic food handling and food safety adhered to by students and staff working at the college."

Students were pleased to be able to proudly display the ratings stickers at the entrances to the Orangery

The Orangery Restaurant and Garden Cafe are open daily from 10am-3.30pm.

The food hygiene score is the latest accolade for Derwen College which has earned a reputation for delivering outstanding provision and has been judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted on three consecutive inspections.

It has recently been shortlisted for two awards in the national TES FE Awards.

Increase in police precept gets go-ahead

A PANEL has agreed to increase the police council tax precept in Mid Wales by five per cent.

A Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel meeting heard the proposals from commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn about raising the precept by five per cent.

The proposal was unanimously accepted by the panel, and the commissioner said: "The agreement means a typical Band D property will pay £224.56 for policing in 2018/19, an increase of £10.69 for the year, or 21p per week. The force has been graded as good in the most recent report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, and this level of funding will protect the number of police officers and allow the force to continue to make positive progress over the coming year." The panel, made up of members nominated by the four councils in the force area, has the power to approve or veto decisions on issues such as the tax precept.

Meetings are open to the press and public, and with the prior permission of the chair, people can ask questions or make a statement in relation to a matter being considered by the panel, with the exception of personnel matters.

Questions should be submitted to www.dppoliceandcrimepanel.wales

Town crier idea to be discussed

'OYEZ, Oyez' – a new town crier could soon be making proclamations in Oswestry.

Oswestry Town Council is considering appealing for people to come forward for a new post of town crier.

Councillors were due to meet yesterday (Wednesday) to look at the idea of the ceremonial role being used to help promote the town.

While the role would be voluntary, the town council would provide the uniform and could give a small honorarium each year.

In a report to council, markets and events manager David Clough said the introduction of a town crier could have many benefits. "Not only would events and information be publicised but a town crier has the ability to improve the visitor experience to the town," said Mr Clough, who added Oswestry had not had a town crier since the 1980s.

If the idea is passed by the council, a competition to find the town crier could be held in April. The post would be open to anyone over the age of 18. A draft terms and conditions on the job says the town crier would have to have strong ties to Oswestry, an outgoing personality, reasonable knowledge of the history of Oswestry and able to project their voice.

Travel firm's sunbed booking scheme gets MP Glyn a little bit hot under the collar

THERE are plenty of serious political subjects to comment on – but that doesn't mean MPs cannot wade in on issues the rest of us are getting hot under collar about.

As the Tory Party broke into open debate about Brexit and its leadership, Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies was also tackling Thomas Cook's new policy on sunbeds.

The holiday operator is offering customers the chance to pay £22 to pre-book their sunbed for their duration of their holiday.

Mr Davies took to Facebook to reveal his opposition to the move – and to reveal a chance encounter with a former England captain.

The MP said: "No way would I ever book a sun lounger for a sunshine holiday.

"It's not the £22 it would cost that puts me

Report by David Banner

off. I would have no idea who was going to be lounging next to me.

"Could be some bloke snoring, or drunk, or aggressively noisy or playing non-stop rap music.

"I'd want the freedom to move to a quiet spot.

"I did nod off when in Portugal a good few years ago, only to wake up eyeball to eyeball with Emyln Hughes, the great Liverpool and England star.

"I got to know him.

"I'd need to know who had booked the next-door sun lounger."

Thomas Cook says it is the UK's first package holiday company to provide such a service.

Travel firms receive numerous complaints from customers unable to use hotel sunbeds because many are reserved by people leaving towels, books and other belongings on them.

A number of videos have been posted online in recent months showing desperate holiday-makers waiting for hotel pools to open in the early hours of the morning so they can bag a sunbed.

Thomas Cook believes its new service will prove popular with families who want to spend more time together in their preferred location.

It commissioned a poll of 1,500 working parents which found that three out of four feel they "lack quality time with their children"

during an average weekday. Half of those surveyed said holidays are their top spending priority in 2018.

Thomas Cook's UK managing director Chris Mottershead said: "Traditional package holidays are a thing of the past.

"Holidaymakers today want to personalise their package, mixing and matching the elements that best fit their needs and lifestyle.

"We're excited about the opportunity with Choose Your Favourite Sunbed, particularly among families that want to secure a number of beds together in a specific spot."

Sunbeds will be displayed on a map featuring a compass to help people work out when they will be in the sun or shade at different times of the day.

Sure Start family centres facing the axe in shake-up

Report by Lucy Todman

CHILDREN'S centres across Shropshire could close – and parents instead told to meet in village halls and coffee shops.

Sure Start children's centres are being targeted as part of cuts at Shropshire Council.

It is planning to remove permanent bases in a bid to save more than £870,000.

Under the proposed new delivery model, a significant majority of face-to-face work would be done in family homes or in neutral community settings, rather than in buildings run by the council.

The under-threat children's centres, known as Sure Start centres, are located across the county. They were intended to be a "one-stop shop" for all children under five and their families. From organised coffee mornings to drop-in sessions and social events, the Sure Start system has given support to thousands of parents and their toddlers.

Work

They work with a variety of organisations, including maternity services, health visitors, nurseries, pre-schools, schools, community enablement officers, benefits teams, social care, voluntary and not-for-profit agencies to build on existing provision to develop responsive, needs-led local services for families and their communities. In a consultation document, the council said: "It is likely that the new model, if approved, will result in the closure of a number of children's centres, but where this is the case full consultation will take place with those affected by the proposal."

It said rather than "services for all" there would be more targeted services for those who need the most help. This would then lead to a need for fewer buildings, providing a "cost-effective way of working".

The council added: "The aim of a new Early Help delivery model would be to bring together services for children and families and work as one to make it simpler and easier for families. This means they will only have one lead worker who will bring in additional expertise if needed.

"We have looked at how this works across the country and have taken account of what works in counties that are similar to Shropshire."

The results of a six-week consultation, which ends on March 6, will be presented to the council's cabinet for a final decision in the spring.

Long service awards presented by hospice



Hope House 20 year awards, from left, Barbara Evans, Steve Tudhope, Jan Langley, Karen Wright, Rachel Thomas and Steve Henly
DEDICATED staff at a children's hospice have been presented with long service awards by the charity.

The awards at Hope House Children's Hospice were made by chief executive Andy Goldsmith who thanked them for their dedication and said their commitment was greatly appreciated. "Their work as a team enables Hope House to provide vital care and support and counselling to hundreds of families across the

region that are caring for a terminally ill child or who have been bereaved," he said.

"Only with a dedicated and professional team, and the incredible support of the public to fund our services, can we realise our ambition of ensuring that no-one faces the death of a child alone." There were 20 year service awards presented by board of trustees chair Steve Henly and vice chair Barbara Evans to Karen Wright, director of care; Jan Langley,

play leader; Rachel Thomas, senior nurse team leader; Alex Watkin, physiotherapist; David Riffel, nurse and Steve Tudhope, trusts administrator. Awards for 10 years service were presented to Kathy Hilton, nurse; Clare East, clinical practice facilitator; Mike Coulson, lottery administrator; Sarah Hughes, lottery administrator; Janet Farrington, Nantwich shop manager and Janette Curlliss, Welshpool shop manager.

Move to lower voting age in some elections wins support

A DECISION to give the vote to 16-year-olds in some elections in Wales has been backed by an MP.

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies said he is broadly in favour of lowering the voting age from 18 to 16 to give more people an opportunity to have their say.

The MP was speaking after the Welsh Assembly backed plans to lower the age for some votes, but not general elections.

He said: "The Welsh Government intends to grant votes to 16-year-olds.

"Though not in general elections. That remains a decision for UK Government. We don't know if it will apply to future referendums – if we are daft enough to hold any.

"My view has been to give as many as possible, who want it, the right to vote.

"So I'm in the agree camp.

"This has featured on my Facebook status before, when most comments seem to be in the against camp."

Meanwhile, the Electoral Reform Society has called on Westminster to back a "fair fran-

chise" and give 16 and 17-year-olds the vote. It wants the UK government to back similar proposals to avoid constitutional issues as teens would be able to vote in local elections in Scotland and Wales leaving around a million people of the same age in England and Northern Ireland without the same right.

Evidence from the Scottish independence referendum showed 16 and 17-year-olds had higher rates of turnout than 18 to 34-year-olds, the society claims.

Jessica Blair, director of the Electoral Reform

Society Cymru, said: "We are delighted to see the Welsh Government bringing forward these innovative ideas to modernise our democracy.

"Wales is leading the way in creating a political system that works for everybody – something that is especially pertinent in the centenary year of the first women getting the vote.

"There is a real need to change how we do politics in Wales and across the UK.

"These recommendations are the first step in making that happen."

IT'S A MONSTER OF A FAMILY MUSICAL

INSIDE



YOUR WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

BRIDES WEDDING FAIR 2018

At Hadley Park House,
Telford, TF1 6QJ

Sunday 18th Feb. 2018
12pm - 3pm

Exhibitors include:

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The fairytale where the ogre is a hero

Ninety minutes. Every day. That's how long make-up artists take to transform Mid-Wales actor Steffan Harri into the nation's favourite ogre – Shrek.

The show is back on the road for an extended run, including shows at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from February 14 to 25.

The performances follow a record-breaking UK and Ireland Tour, during which it earned rave reviews.

Shrek the Musical is based on the story and characters from the Oscar®-winning DreamWorks Animation film.

The hilarious and spectacular production turns the world of fairytales upside down in an all-singing, all-dancing, must-see musical comedy.

Shrek and his loyal steed Donkey set off on a quest to rescue the beautiful Princess Fiona (Laura Main) from her tower, guarded by a fire breathing love-sick dragon.

The fun gets serious with the vertically challenged Lord Farquaad, a gang of fairytale misfits, and a biscuit with attitude, creating an irresistible mix of adventure, laughter and romance that is guaranteed to delight audiences of all ages.

Steffan loves it: "I was over the moon to be given the part. I toured with Shrek and was an understudy to Lord Farquaad. When I got the call to do the lead role this time, I was playing in Les Miserables. It doesn't get much different from that to this. But I jumped at the opportunity. I was keen not to go back to the part of Farquaad because I'd done that. I thought it would be good to have a go at Shrek this time and a few auditions later they gave me the job. I was over the moon."

He laughs when he remembers how he learned he was going to take the starring role. He was at work and it was about 7pm, half an hour before he was due on stage in Les Miserables in the West End. "It was incredible. I went on stage still buzzing from the news. That show was a bit of a whirlwind. But I do love Shrek the Musical. Not only is the music absolutely brilliant and a pleasure to sing every night, the show also has a book that is so funny and witty."

In some respects, Shrek is like a pantomime. It's designed equally with parents and children in mind – with some gags going over the kids' heads and causing mirth among their parents.

"You're right. It's not just for the kids it's for the adults as well. The dads who are dragged for the Saturday matinee come out laughing because of the Lord Farquaad material. The kids don't really get that."

Steffan is well-versed in the original 2001 Shrek movie, having enjoyed the best-selling computer-animated fantasy based on William Steig's 1990 fairy tale picture book of the same name. He enjoyed the voice overs from Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz and John Lithgow – not forgetting the equally enjoyable sequels.

"I'm 26 now so I was about 10 when it came out. I remember quite vividly going to the Welshpool Solar Cinema to watch it. When I got the job, I went back to watch the film. It really is brilliant." Shrek is a real feather in Steffan's cap.

Some day my prince will come –
Shrek and Princess Fiona



After all, he's still only 26 and is already leading the line in major touring productions. He learned his trade in a quite backwater, Caereinion, in Mid-Wales, near Welshpool.

"They didn't offer drama at Caereinion High School so I looked elsewhere and Theatr Maldwyn came about in year 7-8. I learned a lot from the three teachers there and that helped me massively. That made me look elsewhere and that's when I decided to do drama and gained a place at the Guildford School of Acting. It was a fantastic school and I had the best three years there learning some fantastic skills. Now I'm out working – and that's when the real learning starts."

Steffan is thoroughly enjoying his career. He's striking out, making a name for himself and taking up opportunities that come his way. "It's great and there's such variety – literally, from Les Miserables to Shrek."

"This part is totally different to everything I've ever done before. I have a 90-minute make-up call every day so that I can be fully transformed with prosthetics. After that, I have to put on the costume

The dads who are dragged for the Saturday matinee come out laughing

and that weighs an additional 45lbs." Once all that is done, he's transformed and ready to play the ogre. He has created his own interpretation of Shrek from scratch, putting his own stamp on it.

"It's unusual to go out when you're so heavily made up. After the show, I go out of the stage door onto the street and pass people who've seen the show and they have no idea that it was me. But the anonymity doesn't mean I don't connect with Shrek – I do. OK, so Lord Farquaad steals a few scenes, but Shrek is completely believable. He has to be."

Life is moving quickly for Steffan and he's looking forward to starring at a major theatre in Birmingham so early into his career.

"I never thought I'd be leading a show at the age of 26. It's a great honour and I've very fortunate to them for giving me the opportunity. But there's a lot more that I'd like to do. I'd love to do straight drama and TV as well. I've done a bit of TV back in Wales on S4C and I would love doing more and see where it takes me. I'd like to work again in London again too. Working and being happy and healthy is as much as I can ask for and I'm very grateful that I have these opportunities."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



Festival is music to ears of canal fans

A new twist on a transport festival is music to the ears of those wanting to restore a canal.

Music for the Monty will be taking place during the Welshpool Transport Festival, which runs from June 23 to 24, with the aim of drawing attention to the campaign to reopen the Montgomery Canal.

It will see musicians busking at a number of venues around the town to add a musical touch to the festival and also provide additional entertainment for visitors.

The new plans also include an evening concert in Welshpool Town Hall.

All proceeds from the busking and concert tickets will be passed on to the official charities raising funds to reopen the Montgomery Canal, which runs through to the Welsh border.

Already a dozen musicians and bands have volunteered to take part in Music for the Monty and the line-up for the evening performance is currently being put together.

The organisers are now offering businesses the opportunity to become sponsors for the event.

David Aylwin of Music for the Monty: "We are really pleased with the number of musicians who have come forward to help support our event.

"There is still room for more and are also keen to work with local businesses who are willing to support us in our objectives of promoting local talent and restoring the Montgomery Canal.

"In return, we are offering free tickets to the evening concert, the opportunity to publicise your business to festival visitors.

"And, of course, a sense of pride in helping us reopen this historic canal.

"This could connect Welshpool to the rest of the canal network and provide a tourism boost to the town's economy and the surrounding areas."

For further information go to musicforthemonty.co.uk



Coming soon...

Trench war in focus

A tourist attraction will play host to a large range of First and Second World War activities later this year as part of a Trenches Through The Ages event.

Re-enactors will be on-site at Park Hall Farm, near Oswestry, with First World War displays in a full mock trench system covering nations such as American, British, Commonwealth, Russian, German, French, Italian and Austro-Hungarian soldiers from the First World War.

Organisers will also have allied and axis Second World War re-enactors displaying in the field next to the trench system. Members of the public can walk through the trenches and speak to re-enactors and will be able to see a wide range of original and re-production equipment, uniforms and weapons from both world wars.

There will also be a vast range of indoor and outdoor activities for children on-site from tractor rides to animal petting, an Easter egg hunt and a zip wire.

It will take place on March 31 and April 1 and 2, and usual admission charges for the farm apply.

The trench system at Park Hall has been developed in conjunction with Oswestry Town Museum as a Shropshire Remembers project.

The Shropshire Remembers initiative is part an extensive range of activities to commemorate the First World War and how it affected people in the county.



Festival plans are made

Prepare yourselves for a few surprises when the Welshpool Music Festival is held on May 27.

The event has become one of the most popular days on the town's social calendar.

Hundreds of people come from far and wide to the town, packing the pubs to enjoy the best of local bands as well as a few guest performers from away.

And preparations are well under way for this year's event organisers have said.

"The Welshpool Music Festival team are now starting the build-up, and there is a lot of work ahead to continue with the success that has been built up over the past several years," said a spokesperson.

"To continue to improve we really could do with more help with some new elements that we would like to introduce, especially on the day.

"So if you feel you have just a few hours to spare each month, we would love to hear from you."

Performers can also put their names forward to play on the day through wmfest@gmail.com.

That is the same address for people to contact if they want to help out on the committee or on the day.

"We are expecting great demand for performers slots this year so it will be on a first come first served basis," said the spokesperson.



Bands will perform

East 17, S Club and Five will come to Telford for one night only as part of the town's anniversary celebrations.

The 90s pop bands will perform in the temporary Big Top Theatre at Telford Town Park this summer as part of a fortnight of performances that also include tenor Russell Watson, Dara O'Brian, Boyzlife and Al Murray.

East 17 will open the show, with original members John Hendy and Terry Coldwell being joined on stage by Ivor Novello award winning singer Robbie Craig.

Former boy band Five will play hits from their million selling albums second.

S Club will round out the evening with their catalogue of hit singles ranging from Don't Stop Moving through to Never Had A Dream Come True. The band have had huge chart success worldwide. After a brief reunion with all seven original members, S Club now consists of Jo O'Meara, Bradley McIntosh and Tina Barrett. The three groups will perform in Telford Town Park on August 15.



Be entertained by the telly Milkshake! team

Popular Channel 5 children's television show Milkshake! is returning to Telford with its new show The Magic Story Book. Families can see all their favourite characters and presenters on stage at Telford's Oakengates Theatre @ The Place.

Among the characters will be Bob the Builder, Little Princess, Noddy, Fireman Sam and the Toyland Detective – as well as the Milkshake! Monkey and two Milkshake! presenters.

The show will take audiences on a journey through their favourite fairytales, featuring much-loved stories that will be familiar to everyone – young and old.

With music, singing and dancing, Milkshake! Live, 'The Magic Storybook' is the fourth nationwide live tour.

Derek Moran, Milkshake! presenter and show director, said: "We cannot wait to be back touring the country with our brand new show, 'The Magic Storybook'.

"It is a magical show full of audience participation. The Milkshake! audience will love the classic fairytale storylines, the songs and seeing lots of their favourite Milkshake! characters live on stage."

Sarah Muller, head of children's, Channel 5, added: "It is incredibly important that we are able to take Milkshake! to our audiences around the UK so that everyone can have the opportunity to experience the brand in an immersive way.

"Through our live tours, we can give families a Milkshake event that they won't find anywhere else, one where they can meet their favourite characters and presenters whilst enjoying a brilliant family day out."

Milkshake! Live The Magic Story Book is showing on February 21, between noon and 3.30pm.

Your Milkshake! favourites are coming to Shropshire



* OSWESTRY Musical Theatre Company will be performing the Stephen Sondheim classic Into The Woods in April. The show's director Kate MacDonald said: "We are really excited to be bringing such a great show to Oswestry." The show will be performed on April 12, 13 and 14 with a matinee show on April 14. More information is available from 07515 518584 or email info@omtc.info from Oswestry Musical Theatre Company on Facebook.

* A NORTH Shropshire village is heading into fairyland with its own production of Cinderella.

The pantomime takes place tomorrow (Friday), Saturday and Sunday at Welshampton Parish Hall and has been

NOTICE BOARD

written by local author, Joan Davies who has given the traditional fairytale a local twist. It will be directed by Danny Davies. The latest production is from the performance team at Welshampton Bonfire Committee, a group which puts on a bonfire for villagers each year. Cinderella features a cast of almost 30 as well as music directed by Ellesmere musician Trixi Field, and sets designed by local artist, Tony Lewery. More than 50 volunteers from the village and surrounding areas have been hard at work on the production since November.

There will be four performances over the weekend including tomorrow and Saturday nights and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Tickets are available from Janet Jones on (01948) 710602 and are also on sale at the Sun Inn, Welshampton. They cost £7 for adults, £5 for seniors and £4 for children. Details are available on the Welshampton Bonfire Committee website at www.welshampton.net.

* ORGANISERS of the RAF Cosford Air Show have announced an assortment of ex-Royal Air Force helicopters which will be on display for the centenary show in June. One of the highlights of the flying display will be the world's only flying Bristol 171 Sycamore, making its first

appearance at a UK flying display since its restoration to airworthy condition by the Flying Bulls, based in Austria. Other ex-RAF helicopters appearing in the flying display include the yellow Westland Whirlwind, performing a search and rescue display, and the Gazelle Squadron, who will perform a synchronised aerial ballet in their two Westland Gazelle helicopters. On the ground, a number of helicopters will be packed together as part of the unique RAF100 static exhibition including a Sea King, Wessex and Whirlwind.

The RAF Centenary Air Show takes on Sunday, June 10.

Tickets cost £25 and are available from cosfordairshow.co.uk.

February 10



And They're Off for Sport Relief
5.45pm
Richard Arnold, Amber Davies, Maggie Alphonsi, Iwan Thomas and Rav Wilding tackle the sporting challenge, while members of the public try to predict who will win.

BBC1	
6.00	Breakfast.
10.00	Live Winter Olympics 2018. Clare Balding presents coverage of the latest events on day one of the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea, including short track speed skating.
12.00	Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests review the week's headlines and look ahead to fixtures including Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal and Manchester City v Leicester City in the Premier League.
1.00	BBC News; Weather.
1.15	Live Winter Olympics 2018. Clare Balding and Hazel Irvine present continued coverage of the latest events on day one in PyeongChang, South Korea, including cross-country skiing and short track speed skating.
4.30	Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland.
5.25	BBC News.
5.35	Midlands Today; Weather.
5.45	And They're Off for Sport Relief. Richard Arnold, Amber Davies, Maggie Alphonsi, Iwan Thomas and Rav Wilding tackle the sporting challenge, while members of the public try to predict who will win.
6.25	Pointless Celebrities. Sarah Millican, Gary Delaney, Jack Carroll, Terry Alderton, Lee Hurst, Arthur Smith, Helen Lederer and Cariad Lloyd take part in a comedy-themed edition of the unorthodox quiz show.
7.15	All Together Now. Contestants regale the 100 with hits including Sia's Chandelier and Whitney Houston's I Wanna Dance with Somebody, in the hope that they will join in too.
8.20	Casualty. The day of Blake's trial arrives, and while he pleads guilty to GBH, his victim Miles collapses at home. When he is rushed into the ED, Elle finds herself face-to-face with the boy her son attacked, and must determine whether his deteriorating condition is due to Blake's actions. Meanwhile, Bea's one-night stand causes her to find out Rash's big secret.
9.10	BBC News; Weather.
9.30	Hard Sun. Hicks and Renko take the fight to Grace, while Mooney suspects a series of apparent suicides where no body has been found may be the work of a serial killer. Last in the series.
10.30	Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal at Wembley Stadium and Manchester City v Leicester City at the Etihad Stadium. Spurs came into this game against their fierce north London rivals unbeaten in their last three home meetings. However, this was the first top-flight encounter between the sides at the hosts' temporary Wembley home.
11.50	Live Winter Olympics 2018. Radzi Chinyanganya presents coverage of the latest events on day two in PyeongChang, South Korea, including downhill skiing and snowboarding.
2.00	Live Winter Olympics 2018. Radzi Chinyanganya presents further coverage of the latest events on day two of the 23rd staging of the Games.



Hugh's Wild West
6pm
Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall visits the Forest of Dean, where he tracks wild boar, and has a close encounter with a bird of prey known as 'the phantom of the forest'.

BBC2	
6.00	Live Winter Olympics 2018. Eilidh Barbour presents coverage of the latest events on day one of the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea, including cross-country skiing.
10.00	Saturday Kitchen Live. DCI Banks star Stephen Tompkinson joins Matt Tebbutt in the studio to sample dishes prepared by Gennaro Contaldo and Eleonora Galasso. Olly Smith picks the wines.
11.30	Mary Berry Everyday. Mary and her husband celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Last in the series. (R)
12.00	Live Winter Olympics 2018. Clare Balding presents continued coverage of the latest events on day one of the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.
1.15	The Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure. The duo explore the culinary delights of southern Spain from Valencia to Torremolinos, enjoying a mud bath and flamenco dancing along the way. Last in the series. (R)
2.15	Escape to the Country. A pair of super-active newlyweds seek a new home in the Welsh Borders.
3.00	Italy's Invisible Cities. Alexander Armstrong and Dr Michael Scott explore the city of Venice using the latest 3D technology, and discover how it became one of the most powerful places in Medieval Europe. (R)
4.00	Nigel Slater's Middle East. The writer visits Turkey. (R)
5.00	Dragons' Den. Ideas up for assessment include language-learning children's books. (R)
6.00	Hugh's Wild West. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall visits the Forest of Dean, where he tracks wild boar, and has a close encounter with a bird of prey known as "the phantom of the forest".
7.00	Winter Olympics - Today at the Games. Clare Balding presents highlights of the opening day's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.
8.00	Dad's Army. A secret weapon goes haywire and threatens Walmington-on-Sea, so Mainwaring and his platoon speed to the rescue in Corporal Jones's van. (R)
8.30	Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs. Paul Murton explores lochs close to the Central Belt, starting on the banks of the Lake of Menteith and ending by climbing Ben Venue in the Trossachs. Last in the series.
9.00	Charles I's Treasures Reunited. Documentary detailing how the Royal Academy reunited works of art that once formed part of Charles I's substantial collection, but were sold off piecemeal following his execution.
10.00	FILM: The Young Victoria (2009). In the early years of the queen's reign, she is drawn into a power struggle and falls in love with her cousin and eventual husband. Period drama, with Emily Blunt and Rupert Friend.
11.35	FILM: Love Is All You Need (2012). Romantic drama, with Pierce Brosnan and Trine Dyrholm.
1.25	Weather for the Week Ahead.
1.30	BBC News.



The Voice UK
8.15pm
The penultimate Blind Audition round arrives, as Emma Willis ushers more singers to the stage to have their voices appraised by Will.i.am, Olly Murs, Jennifer Hudson and Tom Jones.

ITV	
6.00	CITV: Sooty 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street 6.35 Dino Dana 6.50 Super 4 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.05 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister Six
7.30	Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
7.35	Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
7.50	Scrambled!: Fangbone. Part one of two. Fangbone's class goes on a school trip to Skullbania. (R)
8.10	Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R)
8.30	Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Do! Adventures with the Scooby gang. (R)
9.05	Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R)
9.25	ITV News.
9.30	James Martin's Saturday Morning. Denise Van Outen and Brian Turner join James as he prepares sweet-and-sour chicken, scampi and beef rendang. Plus, another on-the-go recipe with Jason Plato.
11.20	Dancing on Ice. Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby present the next stage as the contest reaches the halfway point, with nine celebrities still in the running to be this year's champion. (R)
1.15	ITV News Central; Weather.
1.20	ITV News and Weather.
1.30	Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Italy (Kick-off 2.15pm). Coverage of the opening match of this afternoon's double bill, which comes from the Aviva Stadium.
4.20	Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Wales (Kick-off 4.45pm). Coverage of the second match from the second round of fixtures, which comes from Twickenham.
7.00	Take Me Out. A fitness fanatic, a volcanologist, a HR manager, and an NHS worker all step into Paddy McGuinness's "Love Lift", hoping to find romance with one of his 30 single ladies.
8.15	The Voice UK. The penultimate Blind Audition round arrives, as Emma Willis ushers more singers to the stage to have their voices appraised by Will.i.am, Olly Murs, Jennifer Hudson and Tom Jones.
9.45	Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon challenges Jimmy Carr, Eamonn Holmes and Scarlett Moffatt to guess which celebrity homes he has infiltrated.
10.35	ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.50	FILM: Lethal Weapon 2 (1989). The detectives set their sights on a South African diplomat laundering drugs money via his embassy in the US. Action thriller sequel, with Mel Gibson.
1.00	You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates another selection of mishaps, including a lorry driver reversing into a lamp-post, a builder falling through a ceiling and a bulldog firing shot at its owner. (R)
1.30	Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00	Babushka. Game show hosted by Rylan Clark-Neal in which contestants open a set of giant Russian nesting dolls, with some empty and others containing prizes up to £10,000. (R)



Great Canal Journeys
7pm
Timothy West and Prunella Scales return to Wales to explore a canal that has eluded them for more than half a century - the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal. Last in the series.

Channel 4	
6.20	3rd Rock from the Sun. Dick and Sally boast about their sexual prowess. (R)
6.45	3rd Rock from the Sun. Part one of two. Dick and the gang visit a parallel universe. (R)
7.10	The King of Queens. Carrie and Doug begin to miss spending time alone together. (R)
7.35	The King of Queens. Arthur's eccentricities annoy Doug. (R)
8.00	Everybody Loves Raymond. Robert's new love causes problems. (R)
8.30	Everybody Loves Raymond. Frank is named Man of the Year at his lodge. (R)
9.00	Frasier. The shrink's trip to Belize is over-subscribed. (R)
9.30	Frasier. Part one of two. A romantic dilemma troubles Frasier. (R)
10.00	Frasier. Part two of two. The shrink contemplates ending his relationship with Claire. (R)
10.30	The Big Bang Theory. Leonard decides to change his ways. (R)
11.00	The Big Bang Theory. The arrival of Sheldon's twin sister causes a stir. (R)
11.30	The Big Bang Theory. Penny plans a party for Leonard. (R)
12.00	The Simpsons. Selma decides to start a family. (R)
12.30	The Simpsons. Lisa hurts Ralph's feelings. (R)
1.00	The Simpsons. Homer is forced to attend Alcoholics Anonymous. (R)
1.30	Come Dine with Me. Contestants from in Bedfordshire try to throw the perfect dinner party. (R)
2.30	Coast vs Country. Kieran and Maryna look for their perfect home in Kent. (R)
3.30	A Place in the Sun. A couple hoping to buy a property on the Caribbean island of St Lucia. (R)
4.30	The Secret Life of the Zoo. The zebras have a newcomer to their herd. (R)
5.35	The Supertvet. A papillon dog undergoes a double knee replacement. (R)
6.30	Channel 4 News.
7.00	Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales return to Wales to explore a canal that has eluded them for more than half a century - the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal. Last in the series. (R)
8.00	Village of the Year Final with Penelope Keith. The four remaining villages compete in the grand final, with residents of each community putting on a special event to showcase what makes their home special. Last in the series.
9.00	FILM: Die Hard 4.0 (2007). Tough cop John McClane goes on the trail of a criminal mastermind plotting a technological terror attack on America. Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis and Timothy Olyphant.
11.35	FILM: Ted (2012). A boy's magical living teddy remains his friend into adulthood, creating tension with his girlfriend. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg, with the voice of Seth MacFarlane.
1.25	The Last Leg. With guests Fay Ripley and Maya Jama. (R)
2.20	Hollyoaks. Omnibus. The arrival of Goldie puts a smile back of Jesse's face. (R)
4.25	Coast vs Country. (R)
5.20	Location, Location, Location. (R)



The Wonderful World of Puppies
6pm
An insight into why domestic dogs are able to find enjoyment and satisfaction in helping humans companions to complete difficult tasks.

Channel 5	
6.00	Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.15 Wissper 6.25 The Mr Men Show 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Mofy 6.50 Simon 6.55 Simon 7.00 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas & Friends 7.30 Fireman Sam 7.40 Olly the Little White Van 7.45 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.20 Paw Patrol 8.35 Nella the Princess Knight 9.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.20 Shimmer and Shine 9.35 Digby Dragon 9.55 Peppa Pig 10.00 Peppa Pig
10.05	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R)
10.40	Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)
11.05	Police Interceptors. Officers raid a cannabis farm located in an abandoned restaurant. (R)
12.00	Police Interceptors. Officers embark on a series of operations targeting crimes connected to narcotics. (R)
1.00	The A-Team. The gang helps a group of victimised fishermen. (R)
2.00	The A-Team. The gang help three disabled Vietnam veterans. (R)
3.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents chase more than £1,700 in unpaid parking fines in south-east London. (R)
4.00	Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. The agents have an explosive run-in with a debtor. (R)
5.00	Rich House, Poor House. Families from Essex and London swap places for a week. (R)
6.00	The Wonderful World of Puppies. An insight into why domestic dogs are able to find enjoyment and satisfaction in helping humans companions to complete difficult tasks. Last in the series.
7.00	Cruising with Jane McDonald: Caribbean. The singer embarks on a series of ocean odysseys, beginning with a stop-off at Nassau in the Bahamas, where Jane finds solace in the state's oldest baptist church. (R)
8.00	The World's Most Luxurious Cruise Ship. Part one of two. Following engineers and designers as they construct the liner Seven Seas Explorer, aiming to make it the most luxurious ship in the world of its size. (R)
8.55	5 News Weekend.
9.00	Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Queens Park Rangers and Barnsley v Sheffield Wednesday.
10.00	Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Northampton Town and Bradford City v Bury.
10.30	FILM: The Silence of the Lambs (1991). A trainee FBI agent engages in a battle of wits with an imprisoned psychopath to gain his help in catching a serial killer. Thriller, starring Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins.
12.40	SuperCasino.
3.10	Cowboy Builders. (R)
4.00	Cowboy Builders. (R)
4.45	House Doctor. (R)
5.10	Great Scientists. (R)
5.35	Wildlife SOS. (R)

February 11

sunday



Still Open All Hours

7.30pm
Granville goes to Scarborough hoping to catch up with Mavis, and leaves Leroy in charge of the shop - which soon has an unconscious customer on the floor. Last in the series.



Dragons' Den

9pm
The panel assess the profit-making potential of selling advertising space on the move, a scheme for improving children's handwriting, and a motorcycle chain-tensioning product.



Endeavour

8pm
A mysterious death casts a sinister pall over a veteran film star's visit to a local cinema, and a family visit puts DCI Thursday's hospitality to the test.



Posh Pawn

7pm
James takes a ride around London in an eye-catching supercar supposedly worth £80,000, and faces a dilemma when he gets an offer for one of his favourite impulse buys.



Football on 5: The Championship

10.25am
Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Queens Park Rangers.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 7.35 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal and Manchester City v Leicester City. (R)
- 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.**
- 10.00 The Big Questions.** Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions on topical issues from St Edward's School, Oxford.
- 11.00 Sunday Politics West Midlands.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Sarah Smith. Including a regional round-up.
- 12.15 BBC News; Weather.**
- 12.30 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Clare Balding and Hazel Irvine present coverage of the latest events on day two in PyeongChang, South Korea, including ice hockey, freestyle skiing, luge and curling.
- 2.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Scotland v France (Kick-off 3.00pm). John Inverdale introduces coverage of the final match from the second weekend of the championship, staged at Murrayfield.
- 5.00 Songs of Praise.** Claire McCollum meets Bishop James Jones to discuss the links between Christianity and forests, and JB Gill meets a tree surgeon who has recovered from addiction.
- 5.35 Celebrity Mastermind.** With contestants Nathan Caton, DJ Dev, Adam Jones and Patrick Grant. (R)
- 6.05 BBC News.**
- 6.20 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 6.30 Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison and Matt Baker visit Cambridgeshire, where a project is underway to turn a quarry into a safe reed bed habitat for one of the UK's rarest birds, the bittern.
- 7.30 Still Open All Hours.** Granville goes to Scarborough hoping to catch up with Mavis, and leaves Leroy in charge of the shop - which soon has an unconscious customer on the floor. Last in the series.
- 8.00 Call the Midwife.** Sister Julianne helps a woman from Pakistan who is unable to have children, but who has found to her shock that her husband is bringing a pregnant second wife into their home.
- 9.00 McMafia.** Alex travels to Moscow on business, unaware of the danger he is rushing into. He has only one way to save himself as he faces a final showdown with Vadim. Last in the series.
- 10.00 BBC News.**
- 10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action - Newcastle United v Manchester United, Southampton v Liverpool and Huddersfield Town v Bournemouth.
- 11.35 The Women's Football Show.** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.
- 12.10 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Radzi Chinyanganya presents coverage of the latest events on day three in PyeongChang, South Korea, including snowboarding and alpine skiing.
- 3.30 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Radzi Chinyanganya presents.

BBC2

- 6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Eilidh Barbour presents coverage of the latest events on day two in PyeongChang, South Korea, including cross-country skiing, snowboarding, ice hockey and speed skating.
- 9.15 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Clare Balding presents coverage of the latest events on day two in PyeongChang, South Korea, including freestyle skiing and ice hockey.
- 12.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
- 2.00 Food & Drink.** Ingredients that have fallen out of favour, with guest Raymond Blanc. (R)
- 2.30 Back in Time for Tea.** How life has changed for working families in the north of England over 100 years. (R)
- 3.30 The Crane Gang.** The day-to-day operations of a mobile crane company. (R)
- 4.30 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Clare Balding and Hazel Irvine present coverage of events on day two in PyeongChang, South Korea, including ice hockey, freestyle skiing, luge and curling.
- 6.00 New York: America's Busiest City.** From their base at the New Fulton fish market in The Bronx, Anita Rani, Ade Adepitan, Ant Anstead and Dan Snow look at food consumption in the Big Apple. (R)
- 7.00 Winter Olympics - Today at the Games.** Clare Balding presents highlights of the second day's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.
- 8.00 South Korea: Earth's Hidden Wilderness.** Documentary exploring the wildlife, traditions and landscape in the country's rural areas, including footage of dolphins swimming alongside humans and a falconer flying a goshawk.
- 9.00 Dragons' Den.** The panel assess the profit-making potential of selling advertising space on the move, a scheme for improving children's handwriting, and a motorcycle chain-tensioning product.
- 10.00 The Mash Report.** Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R)
- 10.30 Live at the Apollo.** Nish Kumar presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Luisa Omielan and David O'Doherty. (R)
- 11.15 Cleverman.** Koen's power and understanding grows as he spends time with Uncle Jimmy, while Waruu discovers a dangerous creature and is led to a substance he believes can vanquish the Cleverman.
- 12.10 Women's Six Nations Highlights.**
- 12.40 FILM: The Deep (2012).** Fact-based drama, starring Olafur Darri Olafsson.
- 2.05 Sign Zone: Question Time.** Topical debate from Darlington. (R)
- 3.05 Sign Zone: Holby City.** Hanssens steps down as CEO, with Serena agreeing to take over. (R)
- 4.05 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 4.10 BBC News.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.20 Bottom Knocker Street 6.35 Dino Dana 6.50 Super 4 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.05 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution**
- 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.
- 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
- 7.50 Scrambled!: Ben 10.** The youngster fights more colourful foes. (R)
- 8.10 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** A visitor makes himself at home. (R)
- 8.30 Scrambled!: Spy School.** GoldFist takes the nation's supply of tea hostage.
- 9.05 Scrambled!: Wishfart.** (R)
- 9.25 ITV News.**
- 9.30 River Monsters.** The fate of merchant cruiser RMS Laconia, which was sunk in 1942. Last in the series. (R)
- 10.00 Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, with Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton.
- 11.00 The Martin Lewis Money Show.** A look at PPI claims. (R)
- 11.25 The Voice UK.** The penultimate Blind Audition round arrives. (R)
- 12.55 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 1.00 Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury.** Julia heads to Loch Lomond. (R)
- 1.30 What Would Your Kid Do?** Parents guess what their children will do in entertaining situations. (R)
- 2.30 The Cruise: Return to the Mediterranean.** Chef David finds he has too many tomatoes. (R)
- 3.00 Britain's Brightest Family.** Two families compete for a place in the quarter-finals. (R)
- 3.30 Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
- 4.30 ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 4.40 ITV News and Weather.**
- 5.00 The Celebrity Chase.** With Michael Vaughan, Anna Richardson, Ray Mears and Jane Danos. (R)
- 6.00 Dancing on Ice.** As St Valentine's Day approaches, the eight remaining celebrity contestants and their pro-skater partners are challenged to show off romantic routines in Love Week.
- 8.00 Endeavour.** A mysterious death casts a sinister pall over a veteran film star's visit to a local cinema, and a family visit puts DCI Thursday's hospitality to the test.
- 10.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 10.10 Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton, featuring reports on the latest issues and interviews with topical guests. (R)
- 11.05 Six Nations Highlights.** Action from the second round of the championship, featuring Ireland v Italy at the Aviva Stadium, England v Wales at Twickenham and Scotland v France at Murrayfield.
- 12.00 Next of Kin.** (R)
- 12.50 Next of Kin.** (R)
- 1.35 Jackpot247.** Interactive gaming.
- 3.00 Take on the Twisters.** (R)
- 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.
- 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15 The King of Queens.** Doug and Carrie consider parenthood. (R)
- 6.40 The King of Queens.** Doug buys a motorcycle. (R)
- 7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray is mistaken for his mother's toyboy. (R)
- 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** A restless Ray is left at home by himself. (R)
- 8.00 Frasier.** A chirping cricket annoys Frasier. (R)
- 8.30 Frasier.** Martin starts work as a security guard. (R)
- 9.00 Frasier.** Roz dates a dustman. (R)
- 9.30 Sunday Brunch.** With guests Josh O'Connor, Dakota Blue Richards and Iain Lee.
- 12.30 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast.** With guest Sarah Millican. (R)
- 1.35 The Simpsons.** The greatest love stories of all time. (R)
- 2.05 The Simpsons.** Bart joins forces with a fellow prankster. (R)
- 2.35 FILM: School of Rock (2003).** Comedy, starring Jack Black.
- 4.45 FILM: Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007).** Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Ioan Gruffudd.
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Posh Pawn.** James takes a ride around London in an eye-catching supercar supposedly worth £80,000, and faces a dilemma when he gets an offer for one of his favourite impulse buys. (R)
- 8.00 Lost Cities of the Maya: Revealed.** Documentary exploring the ruins of a hidden civilisation in the jungles of Central America, and revealing what fresh information the find has revealed about the Mayan people.
- 9.00 FILM: Spy (2015).** Premiere. A deskbound CIA agent goes into action for the first time to battle an arms dealer and avert a global disaster. Comedy adventure, with Melissa McCarthy and Jason Statham. Edited for sexual content.
- 11.25 FILM: Friends with Benefits (2011).** A recruiter sleeps with one of her client's staff, but keeping their feelings out of the arrangement proves tricky. Romantic comedy, starring Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis.
- 1.25 The World's Most Expensive Food.** The conclusion of the documentary following the companies who cater to Britain's super-rich clients examines how competition for customers is driving innovation. (R)
- 2.20 The Superevet.** A one-year-old St Bernard suffering with hip dysplasia is brought to the clinic, while Noel treats a 13-year-old Collie that has been hit by a car. (R)
- 3.15 Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms.** Dealers Celia Sawyer, Alex Proud, Pearl Lowe and Andrew Lamberty bid fiercely on a rare samurai sword and are enthralled by iconic David Bowie prints. (R)
- 4.10 Gillette World Sport.** With Joseph Parker, Moto Sibata and the Wales rugby union team.
- 4.35 KOTV Boxing Weekly.** Action from around the world.
- 5.05 Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer visit Kent, where a couple are hoping to find a house for their growing family, while two twentysomethings are looking to buy their first property. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 The Mr Men Show 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Mofy 6.45 Simon 6.50 Simon 6.55 Peppa Pig 7.00 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas & Friends 7.25 Fireman Sam 7.35 Olly the Little White Van 7.45 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.10 Paw Patrol 8.30 Nella the Princess Knight 8.45 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.10 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig**
- 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** Donatello's grudge against Don Viziozo jeopardises the turtles' mission. (R)
- 10.25 Football on 5: The Championship.** Highlights of Wolverhampton Wanderers v Queens Park Rangers. (R)
- 11.15 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Highlights of AFC Wimbledon v Northampton Town. (R)
- 11.45 Police Interceptors.** The work of Cheshire's high-speed police interception unit. (R)
- 12.45 FILM: Over Her Dead Body (2008).** Supernatural romantic comedy, starring Eva Longoria and Paul Rudd.
- 2.30 FILM: What to Expect When You're Expecting (2012).** Comedy drama, starring Cameron Diaz.
- 4.25 5 News Weekend.**
- 4.30 FILM: Sleepless in Seattle (1993).** Romantic comedy, with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.
- 5.30 5 News Update.**
- 5.35 FILM: Sleepless in Seattle (1993).** Concluded.
- 6.30 FILM: Along Came Polly (2004).** An obsessive man's orderly routine is thrown into disarray when a wildly spontaneous old friend walks back into his life. Romantic comedy, with Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston. Edited for language and sexual content.
- 8.00 Rom-Com LOL Special.** Iain Lee narrates a collection of internet videos featuring weddings. (R)
- 9.00 Britain's Favourite Rom-Com.** A selection of film stars, comedians and TV personalities revisit some of cinema's most memorable romantic comedies ahead of St Valentine's Day.
- 11.55 FILM: There's Something About Mary (1998).** A lovesick man hires a seedy detective to track down his high-school sweetheart - but discovers he has many rivals for her affections. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz and Ben Stiller.
- 2.10 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 4.00 Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink.** A holidaymaker gets a pair of lips as his first tattoo, followed by two couples from Ireland who get a Celtic cross, three stars and a drunken piercing. (R)
- 4.45 House Doctor.** Ann Maurice offers advice to a couple in Beckenham, Kent, whose 1930s-style house has been on the market for more than 14 months. (R)
- 5.10 Great Scientists.** Profile of 16th-century Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei, famous for defending the Copernican thesis that Earth orbited the sun instead of vice versa. (R)
- 5.35 Wildlife SOS.** (R)

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SEAT Ateca set to stay at top of class

By Graham Breeze

It's all about image at SEAT these days and bosses' predictions that the launch of the Ateca would take the brand a step further have really come to fruition.

Predictions that the company's UK market share would rocket with this arrival early last year were spot-on as the Ateca took the crossover class by storm and captured the company car market.

The Ateca became SEAT's third brand pillar alongside Ibiza and Leon with five trim levels S, SE, First Edition, SE Technology and Excellence with trim and technology packages to match.

Recommendation

All the signs suggested it would become as important to the company as Ibiza and Leon have and those signs were right. Now a baby brother Arona is arriving as well.

Now the Ateca has received the best possible recommendation – being named the best crossover at Company Car Today Awards impressing judges with P11D prices, residual values, insurance costs, boot space and all-round appeal.

The SEAT crossover matches a roomy interior and stylish design with a range of economical engines achieving up to 66 mpg on the combined cycle, and a P11D starting at £18,455.

And in a bid to impress the Ateca is currently available to all businesses and company car users to try through SEAT's 4-day test drive programme.

This latest fleet win follows a strong 2017 for SEAT; overall UK sales were up 18.2% year-on-year, including a 33.7% increase for overall fleet sales and a 49.4% increase in true fleet sales respectively.

SEAT's first venture into the compact SUV market couldn't have better foundations than the MQB platform that has underpinned just about every new VW Group model over the last few years. So it was a no-brainer really.



There's an electric tailgate and good boot space

The real question is why it took them so long to join the fray where the likes of Nissan Qashqai, Ford Kuga and Renault Kadjar have been winning plaudits and sales growth?

Or was it a wise and well thought out ploy of watching and waiting to see what the small SUV sector really wanted because the new Ateca really does now tick all the right boxes.

The strangely named Ateca follows SEAT tradition in being named after a small Spanish village, is a sister model to the Leon and although designed by the Spanish brand, is built at the Kvasiny, Czech Republic factory of sister VW Group brand Skoda.

We drove the SE Technology 1.4Eco TSi PS with 7-speed DSG, which at £25,300 is a real example of why the model is so attractive to the fleet buyer.

With average fuel consumption of 51.4mpg and Co2 emissions of 125g/km you can see the attraction. And there's no excuse for being late for an appointment either as there's a top speed of 123mph and 0-62mph in 8.6seconds – impressive.

A 10-speaker surround system, electric tailgate and



The strangely named Ateca follows SEAT tradition in being named after a small Spanish village

keyless entry, connectivity hub and wireless phone charger together with a rear-view camera and space saving spare wheel pushed the price up to £27,315 – but that's still very competitive.

Inside, the Ateca offers decent interior space and plenty of headroom thanks to the high-set roofline. Boot space is near the top of the class and a low loading lip makes access easy.

Instrumentation is modern and crystal clear and the dashboard is dominated by an eight-inch colour touchscreen, flanked on both sides by four buttons that controls everything from satellite navigation and telephone to audio and a range of apps. All this with

integrated voice control and eight-speaker audio. SE models get dual-zone climate control, cruise control, electrically-adjustable, heated and folding door mirrors and rear parking sensors on top of all the kit from S models, which includes everything from 16-inch alloy wheels, Bluetooth and electric parking brake.

The safety and driver assistance systems available are pretty impressive, and run from the likes of adaptive cruise control, city emergency braking with pedestrian protection and traffic sign recognition to automatic dipping headlights and tiredness recognition.

The SEAT Ateca looks set to stay at the top of the crossover class in 2018

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Helping to move businesses forward

Commercial feature

A Shropshire business is helping businesses to keep moving forward – by supplying and maintaining the essential transport for companies and individual tradesmen.

Budgen Motors, with bases in Shrewsbury and Telford, is an award-winning dealership and a leading supplier of Citroen, Peugeot and Renault vans.

Its highly trained staff know the vehicles inside out, and carry out servicing, maintenance and repairs for vehicles, including for the ambulance service and police vans.

MoT tests, including Class 7 tests for commercial vehicles, are also available.

It can supply a huge range of new and used vehicles to suit all uses, from the smaller Bipper, Kangoo and Partner to the big Trafic, Boxer and Relay models incorporating some of the latest technology and driver aids.

That's only part of the story. The top of the range Peugeot Boxer and the Citroën Relay, for example, are each available in four lengths and three heights – capable of carrying up to 1,900kg in 17 square metres of load space.

At the other end of the scale, the Bipper is powered by a lively but economical 1.3 litre diesel engine, capable of over 60mpg while capable of carrying a load of up to 2.5 cubic metres.

Electric vans are also available for those who need a quiet vehicle with low operating costs.

With three major franchise covering some of Britain's most popular commercial vehicles,



The Peugeot Boxer is available in three heights



Latest technology in Renault's Kangoo

and a variety of finance packages, Budgen is able to meet the needs of anyone from sole traders to retailers, and from public authorities to companies running large fleets.

It also supplies 'ready for the road' conversions such as drop sides and curtain sides to minibuses.

"Often customers wanting a new van want it now, they cannot be off the road for six weeks

and "Ready for the Road" is something PSA (Peugeot Citroën) is very big on," managing director Mr James Martin said.

Budgen Motors is also able to supply courtesy vans for customers who take in the own vehicles for service or maintenance, and cannot afford to be off the road.

The gold-award dealer is officially among the 30 best in the country, having been

nominated for Peugeot's annual Guild of Lion awards.

The dealership is expert in taking care of all business needs, and takes vehicles in part exchange as well as arranging finance, lease, contract hire and so on to meet the customers requirements.

Budgen Motors – which also sells cars – is based at Stafford Park 1 in Telford and in

Featherbed Lane, Shrewsbury. Both are open seven days a week.

As a leading dealership, with three franchises supplying a huge range of some of Britain's most popular commercial vehicles, One of the foremost suppliers of vans and experts in the field, Budgens Motors is the place to meet your transport needs, whatever type of business you run.



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OTHERS			
64	CITROEN DS3 STYLE Plus HDi Convertible, Deep Plum Metallic, Alloys, Low Mileage must be seen	SOLD	
09	MERCEDES CLK 220 AVANT GARDE CDI, Auto, 80k, Black	£5,295	£4,995
12	PEUGEOT 207 SW ESTATE, Diesel, Silver	SOLD	
60	PEUGEOT 308 SPORT HDi Diesel, Black	SOLD	
60	VAUXHALL CORSA Ecoflex Silver, 35k	£3,395	
07	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SPORT, Black	SOLD	
08	VW JETTA SE TDI 140, Black Service History	£2,975	
09	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SPORT DESIGN, 3 door, Silver	£2,995	
60	TOYOTA AYGO VVTi, Blue, previously sold by ourselves	£2,995	
07	BMW 520D SE, high mileage but extensive history, looks great	£2,995	
56	VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic	£2,895	
56	TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT 1.3, Silver, Beautiful Condition, MP3 Player	£2,875	
08	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi BREEZE, Red	£2,595	
54	FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr. Silver	£2,495	
07	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 3DR, Silver	£1,695	
57	VAUXHALL VECTRA SRI, diesel	£1,495	
54	VW POLO 1.4 5DR, Silver	SOLD	
11	NISSAN QUASHQAI VISIA	SOLD	
CONVERTIBLES			
03	FORD STREET KA Blue Convertible	£1,795	
04	VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT, Silver	£1,295	
4x4/ COMMERCIALS			
58	LAND ROVER FREELANDER HSE, Diesel	£7,995	
57	SSANGYONG REXTON 2.7 TDI, Silver	£3,575	
10	VAUXHALL COMBO, Diesel	SOLD	
02	JEEP CHEROKEE 3.7 AUTO, Limited Edition, Low Miles for year	£1,450	
04	RENAULT KANGOO TREKKA 4x4	£1,395	
4x4/ PART EXCHANGE BARGAINS			
06	FORD MONDEO TITANIUM Diesel, High Mileage	£1,995	
55	PEUGEOT 206, 55k	SOLD	
53	NISSAN ALMERA TINO	£995	
04	CITROEN C3 5DR, Diesel	£995	
54	SMART FORFOUR	£995	
W	BMW 318 Saloon, Lots of History, Previously Supplied by us	£995	
T	HONDA ACCORD, Auto	£995	
03	VAUXHALL ASTRA, lots of history	£975	

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Finance Example: Cash Price £3995 | Deposit or Part Exchange: £500 Balance £3495 | Payable over 48 months at £95.43 per month (APR 16.4%)
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59	V/W TRANSPORTER T28 TDI SWB, RED 74K£8,995
SPECIAL OFFER PRICE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE PLUS VAT	
64	FORD TRANSIT CUSTOM 290 TREND E-TEC, WHITE, FRONT AND REAR PARKING SENSORS, COLOUR CODED FRONT BUMPERS, CRUISE CONTROL, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 20K£11,495
COMMERCIALS PLUS VAT	
15	TOYOTA HI-LUX 2.5D-4D 4WD ACTIVE, DOUBLE CAB, WHITE, AIR CON, ONE OWNER 19K£14,475
64	V/W TRANSPORTER T28 STARTLINE TDI, SILVER, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, ONE OWNER 36K£12,995
15	FORD TRANSIT CUSTOM 2.2TDCi 290 L1H1, WHITE, ELECT. WINDOWS, 6 SPEED, ONE OWNER 45K£9,875
64	PEUGEOT EXPERT HDI, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, AIR CON, SHELVLING IN REAR 40K£7,795
14	FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 240 L2 LWB, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, DIRECT FROM NHS, ONE OWNER 69K£7,595
15	CITROEN BERLINGO 625 ENTERPRISE, 3 SEATER, WHITE, AIR CONDITIONING, WINDOWS, SIDE DOOR, REAR PARKING SENSORS 19K£7,295
15	CITROEN BERLINGO, WHITE, 3 SEATS, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON, PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 38K£6,995
60	VAUXHALL VIVARO 2900 CDTi LWB, BLUE, AIR CON., ELEC. WINDOWS, SERVICE HISTORY 49K£6,595
60	FORD TRANSIT 300S, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, ROOF RACK, RACKING IN REAR, DIRECT FROM BT, SERVICE HISTORY 34K£6,495
60	FORD TRANSIT 300S, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, ROOF RACK, RACKING IN REAR, DIRECT FROM BT, SERVICE HISTORY 36K£6,495
14	RENAULT KANGOO ML 19 EXTRA DCI 90 WHITE, AIR CON, REAR PARKING SENSORS, SAT. NAV. 37KSOLD
63	PEUGEOT PARTNER PROFESSIONAL 1.6 HDi, 3 SEATER, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, AIR CON., ONE OWNER 54K£5,495
62	V/W CADDY C20 PLUS Tdi, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, SERVICE HISTORY 61K£5,495
15	RENAULT KANGOO ML19 1.5 DCI, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER 56K£4,995
14	FIAT DOBLO CARGO 1.3 JTD 90 BHP, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ELECTRIC WINDOWS 59K£4,495
62	PEUGEOT BIPPER S 1.3 HDI, BLUE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER 60K£3,695
64	VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDDTi 2000, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ROOF RACK, SERVICE HISTORY, DIRECT FROM BT 63K£2,895
06	FORD FIESTA TDCi VAN, WHITE 67K£1,995
MOTOR BIKES	
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NOW £15,265 (+ VAT)



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Energy DCi125 Formula Edition
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NOW £15,684 (+ VAT)



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Business +
WAS £24,075
NOW £14,490 (+ VAT)



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WAS £32,235
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Business +
WAS £24,575
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TYPICAL EXAMPLE

Total Cash Price:	£3200	Monthly Payments:	£65
APR:	7.9%	Weekly Payments:	£15
Term of Loan:	60 Months	Total Payable:	£3900



**NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI N
CONNECTA**
£20 TAX PER YEAR,
6 SPEED DIESEL, ALLOYS,
CD, AIR CON, P/STEERING,
E/WINDOWS, SAT NAV, IPOD
CONN, NISSAN WARRANTY
TILL 2019, LOW INSURANCE,
EXCELLENT MPG

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £49 per week*.
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**PEUGEOT 308 1.6 BLUEHDI
ACCESS**

**FREE TAX ** DIESEL,
ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
STILL UNDER PEUGEOT
WARRANTY TILL 2019,
IPOD CONNECTION,
LOW INSURANCE

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*.
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**VOLVO V40 1.6TD D2 CROSS
COUNTY LUX POWERSHIFT
AUTO**

ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR,
HALF LEATHER, ALLOYS,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS

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**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.6
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BLUETOOTH, IPOD CONN,
LOW INSURANCE

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FIAT 500 1.2 POP
ONLY £30 TAX PER YEAR,
WHITE, ONLY 22,000 MILES,
ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
LOW INSURANCE

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £25 per week*.
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CARS OF THE WEEK

CITROEN DS3 1.6 E HDI D SPORT PLUS AIRDREAM 110



**FREE TAX ** FULL LEATHER,
ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, 6 SPEED DIESEL,
IPOD CONNECTION, LOW
INSURANCE, IMMACULATE
CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £32 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5468

TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 ICON



FREE TAX * STILL UNDER
TOYOTA 5 YEAR WARRANTY,
ONLY 15,000 MILES, ALLOYS,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING, ELECTRIC
WINDOWS, LOW INSURANCE,
IMMACULATE CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £35 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5328



**RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5 DCI
DYNAMIQUE S ENERGY**
**FREE TAX ** DIESEL,
ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
ONLY 25,000 MILES,
LOW INSURANCE

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5457

**VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SV 1.6
TDI CR SE BLUEMOTION
TECH**

£20 TAX PER YEAR,
5 DOOR, DIESEL, ALLOYS,
CD, AIR CON, P/STEERING,
E/WINDOWS, LOW
INSURANCE, EXCELLENT
MPG, BLUETOOTH,
IPOD CONN

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5450



**CITROEN C4 1.6E HDI VTR+
AIRDREAM**

**FREE TAX ** 6 SPEED
DIESEL, ALLOYS, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, P/STEERING,
E/WINDOWS, UPTO 60 MPG,
PARKING SENSORS,
LOW INSURANCE

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £29 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5451



**CITROEN C3 1.2 VTR+
PURETECH**
ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR,
5 DOOR, CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS, LOW
INSURANCE, IMMACULATE
CONDITION

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £29 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5456

**SEAT TOLEDO 1.6 TD
ECOMOTIVE**

ONLY £20 TAX PER YEAR,
HALF LEATHER, ALLOYS,
SAT NAV, CD PLAYER,
AIR CON, P/STEERING,
E/WINDOWS,
IPOD CONNECTION,
LOW INSURANCE

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £45 per week*.
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CHEVROLET SPARK 1.0 LS

ONLY £30 TAX PER YEAR, 5
DOOR, UPTO 60 MPG,
CD PLAYER, AIR CON,
POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
LOW INSURANCE

Buy this car, and drive away today from only £15 per week*.
Call us on 0800 917 4622 quoting stock reference: S5453



**CITROEN C4 CACTUS 1.6
BLUEHDI FLAIR**

**FREE TAX ** 5 DOOR,
ALLOYS, AIR CON,
P/STEERING, E/WINDOWS,
IPOD CONN, BLUETOOTH,
UNDER CITROEN WARRANTY,
P/SENSORS,
EXCELLENT MPG,
LOW INSURANCE

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Sky Bet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wigan	28	19	6	3	55	13	61
Shrewsbury	29	18	7	4	39	21	63
Blackburn	30	17	5	5	54	29	59
Scunthorpe	31	15	9	7	45	32	54
Rotherham	30	15	10	5	50	36	50
Bradford	31	15	3	13	47	48	46
Charlton	29	13	4	19	39	46	48
Preston	29	12	7	10	46	38	43
Portsmouth	30	13	4	13	36	35	43
Oxford United	30	11	8	11	47	45	41
Plymouth	30	11	8	12	35	39	41
Oldham Athletic	31	8	15	43	56	32	32
Bristol Rovers	30	12	11	8	47	43	39
Doncaster	31	9	11	11	36	37	38
Southend	30	10	7	13	36	39	37
Walsall	29	9	11	16	41	36	36
Fleetwood	30	10	6	14	42	38	36
AFC Wimbledon	29	9	7	13	28	33	34
Blackpool	30	8	10	16	25	31	34
Northampton	31	9	10	12	28	31	33
Oldham Athletic	31	8	15	43	56	32	32
MK Dons	29	7	9	13	29	41	30
Rochdale	27	5	10	12	27	37	25
Bury	29	5	6	18	22	44	21

Vanarama National

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wrexham	32	15	11	6	37	24	56
Walsall	31	16	8	7	39	27	53
Aldershot	31	10	6	15	42	35	54
Tranmere	32	15	9	8	51	30	54
Sutton	30	15	7	8	44	35	52
Dover	31	13	12	6	43	26	51
Eastleigh	32	10	13	7	48	33	50
Boreham	31	13	11	7	45	32	50
AFC Fylde	32	13	10	9	56	41	50
Dagenham & R	31	10	10	10	48	40	45
Eastleigh	32	10	13	7	48	33	50
Ebbw Vale	32	10	13	9	41	39	43
Maidenhead	31	10	11	10	42	43	41
Gateshead	30	9	13	8	38	31	40
Woking	31	11	6	14	40	38	39
Radcliffe	31	9	11	11	38	38	38
Leyton Orient	31	9	14	9	46	35	35
Hartlepool	31	8	10	13	35	44	34
KF Halifax	31	8	10	13	32	43	34
Scarborough	31	7	10	13	30	40	33
Southall Mids	31	8	6	16	32	46	30
Chesham	31	5	12	14	27	51	27
Torquay	32	5	8	18	28	53	24
Gusley	30	4	10	16	27	56	22

Vanarama National N

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Salford City	29	14	4	6	50	26	41
Harrigate	29	14	4	6	46	25	40
Barnack	27	14	10	4	48	24	52
Spennymoor	26	14	6	5	42	40	48
Kidderminster	27	12	10	6	49	29	46
Chadwell	27	11	10	7	48	30	45
Brady Spartans	28	14	1	13	58	49	43
Bedford Park	27	11	9	4	43	33	40
Stockport	28	11	7	10	52	43	40
Chorley	28	10	8	12	37	40	37
Newton United	27	11	5	10	32	27	40
Tamworth	28	10	6	12	41	48	36
FC Utd of Man.	29	10	4	15	45	54	36
Affington Town	28	10	5	15	45	46	36
Northampton	29	10	4	15	45	54	36
Nuneaton Town	28	9	6	13	35	44	33
Leamington	29	8	8	13	40	47	32
Southport	28	8	12	17	37	54	32
Gainsborough	29	8	9	13	32	41	31
Grimsby Town	28	8	9	13	32	41	31
AFC Telford Utd	25	8	9	14	33	46	27
North Ferriby	28	6	2	14	21	41	9

Evo-Stik League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Atrincham	28	16	4	6	53	22	60
Grantham Town	30	16	6	5	53	24	54
Shaw	29	16	5	5	49	23	54
Ashton United	27	14	8	5	49	33	50
Hednesford	31	14	7	10	44	49	40
Warrington	29	14	6	6	42	31	47
Walsley Celtic	30	14	6	6	42	31	47
Workington	29	13	7	9	50	39	46
Barwell	32	12	10	10	44	39	46
Witton Albion	31	12	9	10	54	45	45
Lancaster City	30	11	8	13	52	41	41
Northwich	29	12	5	12	42	44	41
Stourbridge	28	11	7	10	43	33	40
Buxton	30	11	7	12	46	45	40
Widnes	30	11	7	12	46	45	40
Matlock	31	11	5	14	44	55	38
Stafford Rang	29	10	7	12	32	41	37
Whitby Town	33	8	11	14	43	54	35
Grantham Town	30	7	14	14	42	54	34
Marine	30	7	15	18	38	59	33
Halesowen T	32	7	6	19	32	62	27
Stalybridge	26	7	4	15	33	48	25
Sutton Coldfield	36	6	20	35	81	24	21

Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Basford	29	23	5	1	71	25	74
Frickley	27	17	4	6	72	38	55
Bedworth	29	16	5	8	48	33	53
Castleford	28	16	4	7	48	33	53
Stamford	29	13	9	7	48	33	53
Alvechurch	23	14	5	4	44	30	47
Chasestown	27	14	4	9	53	44	36
Leek Town	28	12	5	11	51	35	41
Stokebridge	28	11	5	14	38	37	38
Corby Town	28	12	3	13	47	46	39
Belper Town	29	10	14	13	36	35	35
Loughborough D	31	9	15	4	44	31	35
Spalding United	29	10	11	7	44	31	35
Lincoln United	26	9	14	16	40	30	30
Newcastle Town	27	8	14	37	21	59	29
Carlton Town	22	8	14	40	36	38	28
Kidsgrove	25	8	13	40	30	28	28
Chaddesley	24	7	14	47	28	26	26
Mk Drayton T	27	5	15	26	26	26	26
Romulus	30	6	16	40	21	26	26
Sheffield	27	5	10	42	22	25	25
Graysley	25	6	13	29	47	24	24

Hallmark Security Lge

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Silsden AFC	27	20	0	4	74	24	69
Litherton	24	17	3	4	68	23	64
Bedworth	29	16	5	8	48	33	53
Stamford	29	13	9	7	48	33	53
Alvechurch	23	14	5	4	44	30	47
Chasestown	27	14	4	9	53	44	36
Leek Town	28	12	5	11	51	35	41
Stokebridge	28	11	5	14	38	37	38
Corby Town	28	12	3	13	47	46	39
Belper Town	29	10	14	13	36	35	35
Loughborough D	31	9	15	4	44	31	35
Spalding United	29	10	11	7	44	31	35
Lincoln United	26	9	14	16	40	30	30
Newcastle Town	27	8	14	37	21	59	29
Carlton Town	22	8	14	40	36	38	28
Kidsgrove	25	8	13	40	30	28	28
Chaddesley	24	7	14	47	28	26	26
Mk Drayton T	27	5	15	26	26	26	26
Romulus	30	6	16	40	21	26	26
Sheffield	27	5	10	42	22	25	25
Graysley	25	6	13	29	47	24	24

First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
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Midland Football

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Colehill	25	17	5	3	63	31	56
Bromsgrove S	24	17	4	3	59	28	54
Sporting Khalsa	25	14	8	3	56	29	50
Worcester City	24	14	6	4	50	29	48
Coventry Sphinxes	23	13	7	5	50	38	46
Highgate United	23	13	4	5	39	28	43
Rugby Town	25	12	5	8	46	32	41
Heaton Town	23	11	4	8	37	37	37
AFC Wulfs	23	11	4	8	36	30	35
Shepshead D	23	10	4	9	56	40	34
Westfields	22	10	4	8	52	38	34
Coventry United	22	10	4	8	48	35	34
Long Eaton	22	10	5	3	38	14	34
Boldmere	25	8	4	13	37	54	28
Quorn	27	8	4	15	42	65	28
Loughborough U	25	8	3	14	38	48	27
Lye Town	25	7	6	12	39	47	27
Stourport Swifts	19	7	10	10	35	48	23
Haughmond	26	6	5	15	33	51	23
Shawbury United	23	5	13	34	44	18	18
S Northampton	24	4	16	28	56	16	16
Rochester	22	3	4	15	39	62	13

Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Walsall Wood	23	19	1	3	92	18	58
Alcester Road	25	17	4	4	56	30	55
Alcester	25	17	5	3	53	25	53
Ilkeston Town	25	16	6	3	65	26	52
Hinckley AFC	23	15	3	5	76	40	48
Studley	25	14	4	7	45	41	46
RC Warwick	23	14	3	4	48	22	43
Peckham Rovers	23	13	7	10	50	25	43
Heather St J	25	13	4	8	78	54	43
Lichfield City	27	12	6	9	58	53	42
Coventry C	23	12	2	9	40	45	38
Peckham Rovers	23	12	7	15	28	37	37
Chelsmsley Town	8	15	13	63	29		
Heath Hayes	24	6	8	10	62	63	26
Pershore Town	27	5	15	41	57	26	26
Uttoxeter Town	27	5	15	41	76	26	26
Nuneaton Griff	28	7	15	42	38	38	38
Brocton	22	5	11	35	46	20	20
Cadbury Athletic	23	4	8	15	32	46	20
Stafford Town	30	6	2	22	41	75	20
Stafford	30	6	2	22	41	75	20
Coventry Alys	26	3	1	22	11	95	10

West Midlands (Region-)

al) League

Premier Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Malvern Town	26	18	5	3	77	39	59
Barnet Rovers	26	16	7	5	86	44	55
Weymouth	21	16	3	6	27	25	51
Weymouth Sports	19	16	1	2	85	17	49
Weymouth Town	23	14	4	5	62	38	46
Weymouth Rangers	24	13	4	7	61	42	43
Weymouth Town	24	13	3	8	53	37	42
Weymouth Field	23	12	5	6	50	42	41
Weymouth Casuals	23	12	2	9	87	57	38
Weymouth Road L.C.	22	12	2	11	52	55	38
Weymouth Totton	22	12	1	9	56	44	37
Weymouth Town	28	11	4	13	57	68	37
Weymouth Totton	27	7	3	14	37	58	34
Weymouth Totton	22	7	2	13	34	52	23
Weymouth Town	23	6	3	14	37	63	21
Weymouth Sports	25	6	2	17	34	69	20
Weymouth Old Alley	22	5	1	16	36	62	16
Weymouth Juniors	24	3	0	17	27	65	16

New year, new name for Derwen footballers



Derwen College students Amy Roach and Ruby Bruce with Chester FC Community Trust coach Ben Richards

FEMALE footballers at a specialist college near Oswestry have launched 2018 with a brand new team name - Derwen Devas.

The new title honours the training and support they have received from Chester Football Club's Community Trust which encourages football at grassroots level by working alongside young adults at the college for students with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The club has provided the newly dubbed Derwen Devas, from Derwen College, near Oswestry, with weekly training for its growing female football team, as well as free kit and opportunities to attend Chester FC games and experience behind the scenes tours. The team is named after Chester FC's Deva Stadium.

The young women, some of whom had never played football before working with the Chester FC Community Trust, are aged between 16-25, and are thoroughly enjoying the fun, fitness and football.

They played their first competitive game of the season against Wrexham, while the team watched the professionals in action when Chester took Hartlepool in the National League.

Chester FC Community Trust chief executive Jim Green says that the charity was very pleased to be able to work with and build on the women's team that was established at Derwen College.

"Derwen College first came to our attention through our coach Ben Richards, who formerly worked for Shrewsbury Town," he said.

Enthusiasm

"He was keen to build a link with Derwen College. He explained to us the college's ethos and we shared his enthusiasm to work with Derwen's Ladies football team.

"The feedback from the college has been really positive and we are starting to build a strong team. It's a great college to work with, and the enthusiasm from staff and students has been outstanding."

Chester FC Community Trust delivers sport, education, health and inclusion programmes for all ages with football, and in particular the development of the women's and girls' game, is a key focus.

"Female football is one of our big pushes at the moment," added Green. "Along with Cheshire FA and Shropshire FA, we are seeing a huge rise in the number of players and hope to double the number of women football players by 2020.

Ruby Bruce, a Hospitality and Catering Studies student who loves to play in goal, is thoroughly enjoying the camaraderie in the team.

She said: "It's exciting and fun playing with my friends. We're all like sisters together!"

Derwen College, in Gobowen, Shropshire, is a specialist residential college for young adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. The college has an 'outstanding' Ofsted rating and has been nominated for two awards in this year's national TES FE Awards.

Henry sacked for African comments

TONY Henry - a former player and manager with Llansantffraid - has been sacked as director of player recruitment by Premiership club West Ham over claims he said the club would not sign any more African players.

The decision follows reports that Shrewsbury-based Henry, 60, stated African players "cause mayhem" when they are not in the Premiership side's team. The Hammers said his comments were "unacceptable", adding they conducted a "full and thorough investigation".

A statement added: "West Ham United will not tolerate any type of discrimination.

"The club have terminated the contract of director

of player recruitment, Tony Henry, with immediate effect following his unacceptable comments that were widely reported in the press.

"Our action follows a full and thorough investigation. The club will not tolerate any type of discrimination.

"The West Ham United family is an inclusive one where, regardless of gender, age, ability, race, religion or sexual orientation, everybody feels welcome and included."

Henry, formerly of Manchester City, Bolton, Oldham and Shrewsbury Town, played 34 times for Llansantffraid between 1994-97, and managed the club the following year when it became Total Net-

work Solutions.

Meanwhile, Hammers manager David Moyes said the mood of the squad had not been affected by the controversy.

"I've spoken to one or two of the African players and they seem fine and they've trained well. Morale is good. We're on the back of a pretty good run and we want to keep it going," said the Scot.

"I've never, ever witnessed any prejudicial transfer policy at any club I've been at."

The Professional Footballers' Association had said it was "shocked" by the reported comments. It added: "The PFA strongly condemns any such views and there is no place for them in football."

New Saints held but still 12 points clear

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints remain 12 points clear at the top of the JD Welsh Premier despite twice relinquishing the lead in an enthralling 2-2 draw against a spirited Cefn Druids at The Rock.

Although defender Connell Rawlinson bagged a first half brace for the defending champions, the Ancients hit back on both occasions through Alec Mudimu and Arek Piskorski to level matters at the break.

And that was how the scoring stayed in a lively start to the second phase of the season, with the Druids fully justifying their inclusion in the league's top six for the first time.

Saints manager Scott Ruscoe admitted the defending champions fell below their usual high standards as they struggled to impose themselves on the Ancients.

"Hats off to Cefn Druids who had nothing to lose and gave it a right good go, and we had to fight and scrap all the way," he said.

"In the first half we underperformed, but in the second we had spells when we were better, but I still felt we were not our usual selves and made some bad decisions.

"When you are 1-0 and 2-1 up, it's a bit frustrating. It was an off night for us, but it's another point in the right direction to where we want to be."

Like they have often done this season, TNS took an early lead when Rawlinson headed in Chris Marriott's free kick after just seven minutes.

Rawlinson was then in action at the other end moments later with a timely block, while Dean Ebbe almost added a second but just failed to connect with a cross from Aeron Edwards.

Top corner

The Druids, however, proved more than a match for the league leaders, and were back on terms six minutes before half time when Mudimu curled a terrific 20-yard shot right into the top corner.

The Saints got their noses back in front right on half time when Rawlinson nodded his second goal of the night in a scramble from Ryan Brobbel's free kick.

However, the energetic Ancients immediately levelled when the impressive Piskorski rounded off a fine team move to head home at the far post in a frantic finish to the half.

James Davies had a golden chance to give the home side the lead midway through the second period but scuffed his effort wide of the post.

The Saints, who had won 13 out of their previous 14 outings in all competitions before the game, struggled to open up a steely home defence, but could have won it late on when Edwards fired over when well placed.

Despite the draw, TNS continue to sit pretty at the top with a 12-point lead after two of their chief rivals Connah's Quay Nomads and Bala Town fought out a 1-1 draw at the Deeside Stadium.

Bangor City - who visit the league leaders on Friday night - are now second on goal difference after their 3-0 home win against Cardiff University.

NEWTOWN launched the second half of the season in the JD Welsh Premier with a thrilling 4-3 victory at Llandudno to boost hopes of making the end of season play-offs for Europe.

Nick Rushton's brace put the the Robins on course for the win, while there were two goals and two red cards deep into injury time of an incident packed encounter.

St Martins ten bow out of cup



Brendon Price evades a tackle and (below) Shawn Melusi on the attack for St Martins. ■ Pics: Jack Wright.



TEN-MAN St Martins suffered a 3-2 exit against Haugmond in the quarter-final of the TJ Vickers Cup at Shrewsbury Sports Village.

With the tie level at 2-2, the Saints saw red when goalscorer Jamie Hands was contentiously dismissed for a challenge.

And Haugmond took advantage of their extra man to progress to the last four courtesy of a 79th minute winner from Sam Phillips.

Both sides had their chances early on before St Martins took a 17th minute lead as Callum Graybrook whipped a free kick into the box and Hands found the

back of the net.

Keeper George Austin then pulled off a fine double save to preserve the lead, but he was beaten on 27 minutes with a well taken strike from Phillips.

Haugmond were in front four minutes into the second half through Scott Ryan, but the Saints were back on terms when Dave Easthope volleyed in a cross from Elliott Howes.

Straight red

With the tie in the balance, Hands was shown a straight red for a challenge, and Haugmond capitalised to get the winner with Phillips scoring his second 11

minutes from time when his corner was deflected into the net.

The Saints still had their chances, with a terrific run by Easthope late on almost seeing Shawn Melusi level matters, but his shot went out for a corner.

Dan Stevens' side will be out to make a swift riposte as they look to maintain their fine form in the West Midlands League division one when they head to Tipton Town on Wednesday night.

They then host Old Wulfrunians at Park Hall on Saturday (3pm) as they bid to press for a top five finish and possible promotion to the North West Counties League.

Ellesmere new bosses give youth a chance

THE new managerial team at Ellesmere Rangers are keen to give youth the chance to shine after kicking off life in the Beech Grove dugout with a comfortable win.

Joint managers Jamie Haynes and Kevin Sandwith, who have replaced Richard Brown at the helm, were delighted to begin life in charge of Rangers with a 4-0 victory over Shifnal Town last weekend.

The result lifted Ellesmere up to sixth place in the West Midlands League premier division ahead of Saturday's trip to leaders Malvern Town.

The new bosses included a trio of youth team prospects in their side against Shifnal and were delighted with their contribution.

Dave Bowen was handed his first team debut at left back while there were also starts for the promising Harry Harding in midfield alongside 16-year-old Jack Briscoe.

"All the lads were brilliant," said Haynes. "They quickly got on board with what we asked of them and it was a good all round performance."

"Grant Butler led by example as captain and was different class at the back while the three lads from the youth team all did very well.

Ellesmere scored twice in each half to make sure of a winning start for their new managerial duo.

Karl Bailey and Anwar Olugbon struck in the first half and then Will Twyford came off the bench to grab a second-half double.

Next up for Ellesmere this weekend is a trip to Worcestershire to face table-topping Malvern, a side Ellesmere beat 6-2 earlier in the season at Beech Grove.

Darlington on the move to Bangor

STRIKER Alex Darlington is relishing a new challenge after parting company with The New Saints to join Welsh Premier rivals Bangor City.

The 29-year-old former Wrexham player, who spent 10 years with TNS, was capped by the Wales under-23 semi-professional side on several occasions.

He went on to score 94 goals from 144 (+90) Welsh Premier appearances and has also made seven full and 12 substitute appearances in Europe, scoring three times.

"Alex been at the club for a long time and won everything domestically that there is to win," said manager Scott Ruscoe.

"He's been a fantastic goal scorer and servant to the club and I wish him all the best on his next move."

The forward made his City debut in the 3-0 home win over Cardiff Met University that lifted his new club up to second.

Cefn boss is so happy at point

CEFN Druids boss Huw Griffiths said the draw against TNS shows his side will not just be making up the numbers in the Championship Play-Off.

"It was a fantastic result for us, and we have now taken points off every side in the league," he said. "This result goes to show we are not here just to make up the numbers."

"We were the better side in the first half, so it was disappointing to concede two goals from set plays, but it was equally pleasing to score two great goals from open play ourselves, both which should be goal of the month contenders."

"TNS got the grips with the game in the second half, but the neutral would say we deserved something."

TNS Ladies suffer Cup shoot-out heartbreak

TNS Ladies saw their adventure in the SSE Women's FA Cup come to an end after suffering the heartache of a penalty shoot-out exit against Chichester City Ladies.

Looking to make history by reaching the fifth round for the first time, the Saints finished 1-1 after extra time at Park Hall.

But they then succumbed 5-4 in the shoot-out, Emily Ridge having her spot kick saved before Jess Lewry stepped up to fire in the decisive penalty for the visitors.

There was little between the sides, with TNS taking a 33rd minute lead when Kim Bebbington met a long pass from Laura Morris, with the ball finding its way into an empty net off defender Lauren Cheshire after colliding with keeper Sadie Wilson-Blakeley.

Chichester, however, were back on terms six minutes into the second half when Cherelle Khassal fired past keeper Stacey Garnham.

That was how the scoring stayed, while the tie was delayed for close on half an hour in the second period of extra time when City captain Emma Alexandra was treated for concussion which saw her taken to hospital.

Both sides were successful with their first four penalties in the shootout, with Charlotte Canlett, Lia Lewis, Phoebe Davies and keeper Stacey Garnham all on target for TNS. Ridge, however, saw the fifth penalty saved by Wilson-Blakeley, before Jess Lewry settled the issue when converting from the spot for the visitors.

"We gave it our all, but did not have enough on the day," said TNS captain Charlotte Canlett after the Oswestry side missed out on a place in the last 16.

Town undone as Nelson hit a late leveller

FC OSWESTRY Town were left frustrated after being denied by a last-gasp equaliser in their 2-2 draw against Nelson in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one.

Despite dominating the second half, Town conceded three minutes into injury time as Samuel Holt pounced on a loose ball to earn parity for the visitors from Lancashire.

Town had trailed at the break to a penalty from Chris Turner, having themselves had strong claims for a spot kick turned down.

But they hit back in a dominant second half showing with two well worked goals to put victory in their grasp.

New signing Louis Moss levelled following terrific build-up play six minutes after the break before Tse Nan Yue put the hosts ahead with a sweet strike on 72 minutes.

Town had their chances to be further ahead but were stung when lowly Nelson salvaged a point at the death through Holt.

Ladies make battling point

WELSHPOOL Ladies continue to prop up the North Wales Hockey League division one despite picking up a useful point in their 1-1 home draw with Powys rivals Llanfair.

The result leaves them one point adrift of basement rivals Ruthin, who were hammered 7-2 against Colwyn Bay Ladies.

Llanfair are third bottom, five points above Pool who, still looking for their first league win of the season, visit second placed Dysynni on Saturday while Llanfair face a crunch home clash with Ruthin.

OSWESTRY'S losing streak continued in the Cheshire League division two as they slipped to a 3-1 reverse at home to Runcorn Ladies.

Tigers roar to 12 wins on the spin

RUNAWAY leaders Morda Tigers were again on the prowl as they extended their unbeaten run to 12 matches in the Arla Oswestry and District Table Tennis League division one.

Their latest victims were Llansilin Drovers who were on the wrong end of a 10-0 mauling as the Morda side moved an imposing 20 points clear at the top of the table.

Despite some good rallies, it was mainly a one sided affair with six of the games being won in straight sets against the Drovers who continue to prop up the division.

It's also no coincidence that the three Tigers players also top the individual merit table with Huw Jones setting the pace followed closely by Jeremy Chavez and Jason Hughes who, after an indifferent start to the season, is now proving very difficult to beat.

Morda A stayed second, 20 points behind their Morda clubmates, after their 8-2 victory against Myddle.

Brian Suckley was in fine form for the Morda side in winning his three matches in straight sets, despite some very close sets against Stephen Roberts, the last set going 17-15.

Andy Hardy and Allen Roberts supported Suckley with two wins each. One of Myddle's points came from a close five-set win over Hardy for Ian Turner, and a 12-10 final set finish for Stephen Roberts.

However, it wasn't enough for a win and Morda now cement themselves in second spot.

A few days before, Morda also hammered Llansilin Drovers 10-0 after getting their match off to a good start with Brian Suckley and Andy Hardy both winning in straight sets.

Victories for Allen Roberts and another each for

Suckley and Hardy saw the scoreline go 5-0 in Morda's favour.

At this point, the Drovers seemed to find some form and pushed out for points with Pete Scott getting the closest to a victory, before just losing out to Roberts and Hardy in the fifth set.

Criftins B came out on top against Caereinion A 7-3 in a closely fought contest between sides lying fifth and sixth in the first division.

Ex-Servicemen ran out 7-3 winners against much improved Caereinion B to share pole position in division two helped by Julian Walford who proved to be the man-of-the match with three wins.

Walford's tight five set win over Geraint Thomas was the pick of the matches, closely followed by a narrow victory for Caereinion's Carl Harmer over the experienced Bob Andrews - again over five sets.

High-fives from Llan cranks up title heat

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

FIVE-STAR Llanrhaeadr turned up the heat in the chase for the Spar Mid Wales League division one crown after inflicting a crushing 5-1 defeat on one of their chief rivals Llanidloes Town.

Having given Welsh Premier big guns Bangor City a run for their money in their narrow Welsh Cup exit the week before, second placed Llan turned their focus on the race for the league crown.

And they underlined their credentials in fine style at Victoria Avenue with Tommy Evans leading the charge with a hat-trick to stun the third placed Daffs on their own patch.

The visitors were soon in their stride, forging an early three goal lead inside 22 minutes that laid the platform for a convincing victory that puts them four points clear of the Daffs in second with three games in hand.

Although they are still six points behind leaders Welshpool, they have no fewer than five games in hand on the pacesetters.

Llanrhaeadr never looked back after taking a seventh minute lead when Evans fired in the loose ball after a strike from Iwan Matthews from the edge of the box had been parried by keeper Aaron Warrick.

That advantage was doubled by Tom Bailey who smashed home a loose ball in the box, before Evans notched his second after Dan Graham had nodded back Jack Brayne's right wing cross.

Llanidloes steadied the ship and reduced the arrears five minutes before half time courtesy of Ashley Owen. But the result was effectively settled midway through the second period when Graham put away the fourth, before Evans completed his hat-trick with last kick of the game.

Testing conditions

Welshpool Town continue to lead the way with a hard-fought 2-1 victory at Llandrindod Wells in testing conditions thanks to goals from Ian Probert and Adam Davies.

Llanfair United made up some ground after staging a terrific comeback to edge out Radnor Valley 5-4 at the Mount Field.

A fluctuating encounter saw Llanfair open up a two goal advantage through Josh Astley and Toby Evans, before Valley hit back to lead 4-2.

But Llanfair were not to be denied, and turned the game around with Alun Hughes pulling one back, Karl Seliearts levelling and Astley firing the winner with his second goal seven minutes from time.

Berriew were the day's biggest scorers as they hammered struggling Borth United 7-1 to equal their highest win of the campaign. Harry Watkins and Luke Vickers both scored twice, with Jake Mann, Jack Weaver and Dewi Hughes also on the mark for the second win on the bounce for t

Meanwhile, Llansantffraid Village's promotion push in division two suffered jolt as they succumbed 3-0 to Brecon Northcote at Treflan - their second league defeat of the campaign. The villagers remain second, two points adrift of Builth Wells, but they have played two more games than the leaders.

Dyffryn Banw revived their fortunes when prevailing 2-0 at rock bottom Penybont while Abermule ran out 4-2 winners at Hay St Mary's.

Montgomery climbed away from the two basement places with a precious 3-2 home victory over promotion hopefuls Aberystwyth University.

Ten-man Guils stay unbeaten



Mine! Guilsfield keeper Andy Wycherley clutches the ball in side's 2-2 draw with Flint Town United.

TEN-MAN Guilsfield preserved their unbeaten home record in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance after producing a stirring display to finish 2-2 against Flint Town United.

The villagers had twice led through Chris Cathrall (6) and Callum Bromley (38) after making a strong start, but both times their advantage was wiped out by strikes from Kyle Smith (33) and Alan Bull (57).

In fact, the Guils could easily have been three goals up inside the first 10 minutes, but their momentum was checked after having forward Asa Hamilton sent off for violent conduct that sparked a melee just before the half hour.

Despite having to play much of the game with a man down, the hosts could take plenty of credit from the display that sees them remain fourth in the table - two points off second place.

Nathan Leonard's men were soon on the attack, making the most of space on the flanks, with Jake Cook sounding an early warning when crashing a rising shot over the bar.

Then, a couple of minutes later, Cathrall was all alone on the right of Flint's goal, and hit a low shot that Flint's man of the match keeper Nik Lee-Bulmer did well to get to and divert out for a corner.

However, the breakthrough

soon arrived when Cathrall broke free and, despite being denied by Bulmer, Callum Bromley played the loose ball back to Cathrall who made no mistake at the second time of asking as he steered the ball into the net.

On 10 minutes, the Flint defence was all at sea as a ball was played from the left across the Flint box, and the unmarked Cathrall was foiled by a terrific save from Bulmer.

Flint managed to muster their first real threat on 15 minutes when Richie Foulkes got on the end of a cross, but he could only direct his header just wide of the target from an awkward angle.

Carl Rodgers played a sweet through ball into the path of Obi Anoruo on 23 minutes, but Guils keeper Andy Wycherley was on hand to make a comfortable save from the Flint forward.

Then, just before the half hour mark, came the big flashpoint of the game when Hamilton launched a late challenge on Andy Brown after being goaded, which sparked a brief melee and ultimately a red card for the striker.

After being reduced to 10 men on the 28th minute, Guilsfield temporarily lost their way and Flint took advantage by equalising when Kyle Smyth smashed a loose ball into the net with stunning finish from 25 yards.

The hosts, however, soon got their noses back in front when

Bromley got free down the right and, although his first shot was saved by Bulmer, he smashed home the rebound.

After the break, Flint went close when Bull's shot was tipped onto the post by Wycherley, while at the other end Cathrall almost got his second when denied by another fine stop from Bulmer.

That save was to be crucial as just three minutes later, a ball over the top once again found Bull who broke through and this time slotted past keeper Wycherley who played despite suffering from illness.

The visitors almost snatched the points seven minutes from time when Smyth hit a good shot from wide right in the area, only to see it blocked by Wycherley.

The ball spun across the ball, and as Shaun Beck looked to force it over the line, some terrific last ditch defending by Sam Litchfield cleared the danger.

CAERSWS' poor run with the weather continued as another game - this time against Gresford Athletic - was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch at the Recreation Ground.

Efforts to make the ground playable proved to no avail, meaning the Bluebirds have played just two league games in 10 weeks as they head for a hectic run-in to the season in their quest for league survival.

Hot Harris at double as Crosses stay on top

HARRY Davies scored twice as Four Crosses remain two points clear at the top of the Montgomeryshire League division one with a 6-1 hammering of Llanymynech.

Jamie Evans, Dylan Ellis, Sean Griffiths and an own goal completed the rout, with Sam Roberts netting Llany's lone response at Foxen Manor.

Victory means the Crosses keep their noses in front of Guilsfield reserves who were 2-0 winners against Maesyrhandir at Latham Park. The Guils have a game in hand.

Ashley Davies netted a brace as Llanfair United reserves moved up to fifth by winning 3-0 at Meifod, Ross Lewis also on the mark.

Montgomeryshire League results

Division One: Bishop's Castle v Llanyllin Town (postponed), Four Crosses 6 Llanymynech 1, Maesyrhandir 0 Guilsfield reserves 2, Meifod 0 Llanfair Utd reserves 3, Trevern United v Caersws res (postponed),

Division two: Forden United 4 Kerry reserves 1, Llanfechain 2 Llangedwyn 1, Llanyllin reserves v Carno reserves (postponed), Llanrhaeadr reserves v Abermule reserves (postponed), Newtown Wanderers 2 Trefonen 6.

Tanners Town Cup round one: Welshpool Town reserves 0 Watford Rovers 8.

The Boys and Borden Ltd Montgomeryshire League cup second round draw: Watertoo or Caersws reserves v Kerry reserves, Meifod or Llanrhaeadr reserves v Forden, Bishop's Castle v Carno reserves, Guilsfield reserves v Trevern, Llanymynech v Newtown Wanderers or Churchstoke reserves, Llanyllin v Maesyrhandir, Welshpool reserves v Llanfair reserves, Llanfechain or Four Crosses v Llangedwyn.

Skipper the late hero for Guils in Cup

CHRIS Cathrall's strike proved enough to take Guilsfield through to the last eight of the Central Wales Cup with a hard-fought 1-0 win at Llanidloes Town.

With little to separate the sides, captain Cathrall pounced for the winner 10 minutes from time to put paid to the battling Spar Mid Wales League hosts.

But it was the end of the road for Welshpool Town who went out 3-1 following a battling display at Caersws.

Rhyddian Davies gave the Bluebirds a fifth minute lead and despite reply from Ian Probert 12 minutes later, goals at the start of the second half from Luke Sherbon (48) and Richard Davies (51) proved enough to settle the issue.

Knighton Town also kept their flag flying, but had to battle all the way before seeing off Tywyn Bryn-crug 4-2 on penalties after the tie had finished 2-2. Connor Bird (penalty) and Gareth Mansell were on the mark for Town.

It was a tough day for Churchstoke who went out on penalties Builth Wells after the tie had finished 4-4. Builth earned parity with two injury time goals.

Shropshire golf returns

HAWKSTONE PARK

Stableford: Kenny Evans 53pts; Darren Myrdan 50; Ian Vickerstaff 47. Seniors' Stableford Div One: Alan Owens 49; Dave Robson 48; Paul Greatatch 47. Div Two: Michael Shortman 49; Raymond Tiersan 45; Robert Smith 43.

OSWESTRY

Four ball better ball medal - 15 holes: Ant Doleman & Martin Jones 52; Peter Turner & Nigel Suckley 50; Dan Potts & Kenton Cawley 54. January Stableford Div One: Simon Probert 38pts; James Thornell 37; Gareth Evans 36; Div Two: Nigel Suckley 38; Mark Evans 36; Paul Dunning 36; Division Three - Phil Jennings 39; Ben Westcott 36; Rob Preece 34.

THE BROW

Winter League 8: Terry Brown 30pts; 2. Ian Davies 28; 3. Garry Gregory 24.

WREKIN

Seniors' Winter Stableford 7 (15 Hole): Peter Gee 31/15; Andy Patterson 28/16; Joe Oliver 28/12.

Sport

Football
Premier sack for
former boss – P38

Football
Llan crank up the
title pressure – P39



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Guils target spot in last eight of Cup

GUILSFIELD chase a place in the last eight of the Huws Gray Cup when they entertain Holyhead Hotspur in their delayed first round tie on Saturday (2.30).

The Guils had been due to visit Anglesey, but the encounter has now been switched to Clos Mytton as it has already been postponed on two occasions.

The villagers - who defeated Holyhead in the Cymru Alliance a few weeks back - can take confidence from the fact they are still unbeaten at home this season. The winners will book a trip to Porthmadog in the last eight.

Guilsfield remain fourth, one point off second, after their 2-2 draw with Flint Town United which saw them play over an hour with 10 men following Asa Hamilton's red card.

Boss Nathan Leonard praised the spirit and endeavour of his side, adding: "The effort and work-rate of the lads was superb on a soft and a heavy pitch against a good Flint team."

"You wouldn't have known which side had the 10 players, and we had a great chance to make it 3-1. In the end, it was not to be, but we'll take a point and move on. Had it been eleven versus eleven, I'm sure we would have won."

The Guils will hope that forward Jack Harris, a new recruit from FC Oswestry Town, will gain international clearance this week, with Hamilton suspended and Louis Irvine having left to join Welsh Premier side Prestatyn Town.

Irvine, an ever-present for the Guils this season, made the switch after former TNS player Gareth Wilson took the manager's role at the Seaside.

Irvine played a key part in Guilsfield's impressive form this season after arriving from West Midlands League side Ellesmere Rangers during the summer of 2016. He also represented Haughmond, Bridgnorth Town and Shawbury Town.

Former Welshpool Town striker Steve Rogers has also joined Prestatyn as assistant manager to Wilson.

Eagles no-go – but U18 girls in semis

THE weather again had the final word as Oswestry's rugby players were left kicking their heels when their home clash with lowly Oldershaw was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch at Granville Park.

Still looking for their first win of 2018 after being plagued by injury and unavailability, the Eagles had high hopes against a side lying second bottom.

They now host mid-table rivals Wigan in a rearranged game on Saturday (2.15) after the original meeting was called off due to snow last December. The following week, they host Marple.

Elsewhere, Oswestry girls under-18s reached the national cup semi-finals with victory over Eccles at Whitchurch's Edgeley Park. They now meet Worcester.

TNS OLD BOY BACK IN TOWN

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints will come up against a familiar face as they look to tighten their stranglehold in the JD Welsh Premier on Friday night's showdown with Bangor City at Park Hall (7.45).

The league pacesetters go into the encounter with a 12-point lead, and another victory would put them in touching distance of a seventh consecutive league crown.

Points, however, are certain to be hard-earned against a City side who, having put five goals past the defending champions on the opening night, proved a handful in the return at Park Hall just last month before being edged out by a late goal.

The Citizens arrive having bolstered their line-up during the transfer window - including the arrival of former TNS forward Alex Darlington.

Having departed the Saints just last week, the 29-year-old will make a swift return to his old haunt where he spent close on 10 years.

"It will be strange going back having been there for so long, but I'm looking forward to it and hopefully help Bangor to get something out of the game," he said.

"We've got nine games left, and I want to make a stamp, and try and push TNS all the way. I've got 94 Welsh Premier goals, and set myself a target of getting to 100 by the end of the season."

Bangor boss Kevin Nicholson was delighted with Darlington's debut in the 3-0 victory against Cardiff Met University that took Bangor second.

Quality

"I'm really pleased with the signing, you could see his experience and quality," he said.

As he prepares for a big month, Saints boss Scott Ruscoe will be looking for improvements after the league leaders were held 2-2 at Cefn Druids.

"We did not come out of the traps in the first half, which is unlike us," he said. "It was disappointing to twice take the lead, and then be pegged back, particularly having gone in front a second time just before half time."

"We were a lot better in the second half, and moved the ball about well, but you have got to give some credit to the Druids. They had nothing to lose, the shackles were off and they gave it a good go. We're still 12 points clear, although it would have been nice to be 14."

Top scorer Greg Draper is pressing for a start following his ankle problem while midfielder Chris Seargeant is on the road to recovery from his groin injury.

It's a big month for the Saints who aim to reach the final of the IRN-BRU Cup when they meet Dumbarton the following Saturday (7.35), before facing both Connah's Quay Nomads and Bala Town in the league.

Town face Haughmond in cup



FC Oswestry Town's TNS loanee Jacob Farleigh (left) goes on the attack. Pic: Ian Jones.

FC OSWESTRY Town have been handed a semi-final tie against Midlands League side Haughmond in the TJ Vickers Shropshire Cup.

It's a chance for Town to gauge themselves against the Shrewsbury outfit after rekindling their fortunes in the Hallmark North West Counties league division one this term.

Haughmond, who have struggled in their first season in the Midlands League premier division, were narrow 3-2 winners against St Martins. In the other semi-final, Whitchurch Alport, also of the North West Counties League, will take on Newport Town.

Meanwhile, FC Oswestry were left frustrated after being denied by a last-gasp equaliser in their 2-2 draw against Nelson.

Despite bossing the second half, they con-

ceded three minutes into injury time.

Town had trailed at the break to a penalty from Chris Turner before going in front in the second half through well taken goals from new signing Louis Moss and Tse Nan Yue.

It was a frustrating outcome, but Town have a swift chance to make amends when they visit Lancashire for the return on Saturday (3pm).

"To concede in the 93rd minute is soul destroying, particularly when you have done more than enough to win," said manager Ryan Butcher.

"Nelson are on the way up, they have won three of their last four, and are in a false position. But if we can put in the same kind of performance there on Saturday, it's a game we are more than capable of winning."

Llanrhaeadr aim to reel in leaders

TITLE hopefuls Llanrhaeadr bid to crank up their Spar Mid Wales League division one challenge at home to Llan-drindod Wells on Saturday.

Last week's crushing 5-1 victory at one of their chief rivals, Llanidloes Town, kept second placed Llan breathing down the necks of leaders Welshpool Town.

Forward Chris Aitken is now back from injury, and appeared as a second half substitute against Llanidloes.

Welshpool, who still lie six points clear, look to keep their rivals at an arm's length when they tackle Knighton Town at Maesdyre.

Berriew, who hit seven against Borth United, chase a third win on the bounce when they head to Llanidloes Town.

"The lads have been a credit the last few weeks, and the last two performances have been outstanding," said Rhiewsidars boss Dave Jones.

"On Saturday our midfield and forwards were aged 18, 17, 17, 16 and 19, so the future is certainly bright."

"They have already shown they are capable of playing at this level, although Llanidloes away will be a tough test indeed. But I am confident we will put in a good performance."

Llanfair United, who staged a remarkable fightback in their 5-4 victory against Radnor Valley, hope to make up more ground at struggling Machynlleth.

Rising star Clarke heading to Windies

JOE Clarke is preparing for a busy two months in the Caribbean as he looks to impress for the England Lions.

The former Oswestry batsman has flown out to the West Indies after returning from a warm weather training camp at the Desert Springs resort in Spain.

The 22-year-old will play three four-day and a trio of 50-over matches against West Indies A.

He then stays in the Caribbean for the three-match 50 overs series between the North and South in Barbados, where he will be joined by Worcestershire teammate Brett D'Oliveira.

The teams will each play a warm-up game on March 15 before the three-match series at the Kensington Oval on March 18, 21 and 23.

Oswestry hoping for new signings

A COUPLE of new signings could be announced in the next fortnight as Oswestry gear up for the Birmingham Cricket League division one season.

Rituraj Singh, a 27-year-old former Indian A medium-quick bowler, is already on board, replacing last year's overseas paceman Sadaf Hussain.

It is also hoped to strengthen the Morda Road side further.

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